

Battle Through the Heavens

(斗破苍穹)

Chapter

300-399

Tian Can Tu Dou

(天蚕土豆)

Story Description:

In a land where no magic is present. A land where the strong makes the rules and weak has to obey. A land filled with alluring treasures and beauty yet also filled with unforeseen danger. Xiao Yan, who has shown talents none had seen in decades, suddenly three years ago lost everything, his powers, his reputation, and his promise to his mother. What sorcery has caused him to lose all of his powers? And why has his fiancée suddenly shown up?

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Chapter 300: The End

“Stop, I say!” Nalan Jie shouted with an ugly expression as he squeezed through the confused crowd and quickly arrived by Nalan Yanran’s side.

His footsteps stopped beside Nalan Yanran. He first turned to Xiao Yan and asked, “Little friend Yan Xiao, are you alright?”

Xiao Yan shook his head, indicating that nothing was serious.

Nalan Jie sighed in relief once he saw that Xiao Yan was safe. If he had been injured, it might have been a disaster for himself.

As his eyes glanced over at the young tranquil face, Nalan Jie could not help but think even more highly of him. Although the battle lasted for a short time, with Nalan Jie’s strength, he was naturally aware of it the instant the fight broke out. He had deliberately arrived late, obviously trying to observe Xiao Yan’s fighting strength. After all, a lot of alchemists, though extremely proficient at refining, were a complete mess when it came to fighting. Nalan Jie had seen such people before.

“This little guy, I did not expect that besides having an extraordinary talent in alchemy, his fighting strength is not weak either. Looking at his aggressive attacks, he seems to be a person who has already killed before.” Secretly admiring in his heart, Nalan Jie turned his eyes to Mu Zhan, his old face sank as he shouted, “Mu Zhan, I did not think that after two years of experience, not only did it not smother your unreasonable arrogance, but instead caused you to become increasingly arrogant. This is the Nalan Clan, not your Mu Clan. Even that old guy Mu Chen would not dare to not give me, Nalan Jie, any face if he came!”

“Hee hee, Grandfather Nalan, stop rebuking me. I just wanted to check out this friend’s skill. I had not meant to cause trouble in the Nalan Clan. As for all the damaged property, I will call people at once to have it all completely replaced.” Although Mu Zhan’s nature was extremely arrogant, in front of Nalan Jie, whose seniority was comparable to his grandfather, he did not dare to quibble or be presumptuous. He immediately laughed while nodding his head.

“Hmph! These words of yours can go and deceive a ghost.”

TL: These words of yours can go and deceive a ghost – Meaning no human would believe you

Nalan Jie snorted coldly as he stared directly at Mu Zhen and said in a deep voice, “Mu Zhan, I’m going to tell this clearly to you now, Yan Xiao is a distinguished guest of my Nalan family. I do not want him to be injured. Although, your Mu Clan has many madmen, my Nalan clan is not to be trifled with!”

Nalan Jie knew Mu Zhan’s character only too well. After failing to attack Xiao Yan today, he might get his clan members to attack in the future. In order to ensure Xiao Yan’s safety and to gain favorable impression toward the Nalan clan, Nalan Jie said these words, which caused many people to secretly change their expressions, in front of everyone.

Hearing Nalan Jie’s words which did not sound like a joke, Mu Zhan’s expression changed slightly. He did not expect that Nalan Jie would actually leave such hard words for only a tier two alchemist.

Mu Zhan’s gaze was bizarre as he glanced up and down and weighed Xiao Yan who was behind Nalan Yanran. He secretly wondered in his heart, “What exactly is the identity of this brat? When I return home, I must get someone to investigate him properly.”

“Why? What happened?” As Mu Zhan quietly mouthed to himself, another old voice sounded from outside the crowd. A thin figure flashed and shifted through the crowd and immediately appeared beside Xiao Yan just like a ghost. Everyone’s gazes drifted over. It was Primer Tengshan who was called out by someone earlier.

“Mu Zhan?” Primer Tengshan’s eyes swept onto the mess all over the place. When his gaze moved toward Mu Zhan, he was initially surprised. When he turned around and saw Ya Fei and Xiao Yan standing together, he instantly appeared to have understood the entire situation. Immediately, his old face, just like Nalan Jie, swiftly sank. His old eyes viciously stared at Mu Zhan and furiously said, “You start creating trouble the moment that you return. Do you believe that I won’t get Mu Chen,

that old guy who won't die, to once again expel you to the border to gain experience?"

"Uh... Clan Head Tengshan... you are also here."

Seeing the person who had arrived, Mu Zhan, who was fearless, immediately shivered. Back then, the greatest reason which resulted in him leaving the capital and going to the border was because the arrogant Mu Zhan had angered Primer Tengshan. It resulted in the Mu clan having no choice but to throw this scourge to the empire's borders. Therefore, when he saw Primer Tengshan at this moment, Mu Zhan showed some fear as he smiled awkwardly and humbled his speech.

Primer Tengshan snorted softly. He glance at Nalan Jie by his side as he slowly said, "I shall also give you a reminder. Once you leave this place, don't go and find trouble with young friend Yan Xiao. He is also a friend of the Primer clan. If you really cause any trouble, then don't blame these old bones of mine when I become angry. When that time comes, even Mu Chen will not be able to protect you..."

Although Primer Tengshan was unclear about Xiao Yan's actual strength and his background, he did not have the slightest hesitation when he said these words. A Duo Huang class strong person who had a haughty character was actually willing to follow by Xiao Yan's side as a bodyguard. This was sufficient to see just how much ability this ordinary looking young man actually possessed.

In a two short minutes, Mu Zhan received serious warnings from two out of three of the large clans. This kind of situation had caused not only Mu Zhan himself to be somewhat stunned, but also the surrounding observers to feel shocked.

Since Xiao Yan was able to help Nalan Jie expel the poison, everyone was not overly surprised when the latter did his best to protect Xiao Yan. After all, his own life was in the hands of the other person. However, everyone felt that it was strange and inexplicable that Primer Tengshan was able to say such serious words without any hesitation despite only having known Xiao Yan for a short while.

It should be known that behind Mu Zhan was the entire Mu clan. This strength was not the slightest bit weaker than the Primer clan. By just comparing numbers, the Mu clan even exceeded the Primer clan greatly. After all, the Primer clan was a merchant clan and not a warrior clan like the Mu clan.

Of course, these strong people referred to those of the middle strength and not the peak strength like Primer Tengshan. After all, his kind of class was not something that could easily appear by simply relying on the clan having a combat atmosphere. The most important factor was one's training talent. On this point, both clans were on even ground.

"Che, lucky brat..." Within the crowd, Liu Ling saw the two people of extremely great weight protecting Xiao Yan. He frowned slightly, pursed his lips together and coldly laughed.

Beside him, Little Princess had her eyebrows knit slightly. Her eyes passed through the crowd as she looked at Xiao Yan. She softly muttered, "Looks like he should have something that both clans value greatly. Otherwise, Primer Tengshan and Grandfather Nalan would definitely not take the risk of offending the Mu clan and speak out for him without any hesitation."

"What a mysterious fellow... it's a pity." Little Princess regretfully shook her head. She recalled her attitude toward Yan Xiao and could only laugh bitterly. She did not expect that a failure on her part to identify a talented person would actually result in her losing a chance to befriend such an outstanding person. If her emperor father or elder sister were to know about this, she would likely be viciously reprimanded.

The corner of Mu Zhan's mouth twitched. The smile on his face was extremely ugly. A long while later, he helplessly spread out his hand in front of Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan's gaze and said, "Two old sirs, I have already said that today's matter was only a misunderstanding. Alright, as long as this friend does not provoke me in the future, I will not go and make things difficult for him. Let's take this as giving both of you face."

Nalan Jie nodded faintly. He turned around, eyed the hall and clapped his hand. With a smile, he said, "Everyone, please continue. This is but mischief caused by the younger generation. Everyone can just treat it as having watched an interesting performance. Ha ha."

Hearing Nalan Jie's words, the surrounding observers knew what was good for them as they followed him and laughed. After which, they consciously scattered and began to search for people that were pleasing to their eyes as they continued to drink wine and chat.

"Hehe, old fellow, you really won't give up any chance to make a good impression..." Primer Tengshan smiled, leaned close to Nalan Jie and said softly.

"Humph. Old fellow, looks like you really intend to snatch this person from us?" Nalan Jie glanced at Primer Tengshan and said with a cold smile.

"If such a talented person was to run to someone else's home, that would be a matter that would give one a terrible headache..." Primer Tengshan laughed softly, "I seem to feel that Ya Fei and young friend Yan Xiao are able to converse very well. Don't you agree? But little niece Yanran does not appear to be able to lower herself and get closer to young friend Yan Xiao. Hee hee, after all their statuses are different. If it is like this, won't your side greatly lose out?"

Nalan Jie's shriveled face swept across Ya Fei from the corner of his eyes who was pulling Xiao Yan and checking all over him body to see if he was wounded in the fight. He then glanced at his granddaughter who was standing on one side with her cool pretty face that did not have the slightest activity. He could only shake his sleeves as he bitterly replied, "You are really willing to put in the capital..."

"Just so so." Primer Tengshan smiled in a very pleased manner. He drowned the red wine in his hand all in one go.

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"Alright, I am really alright. Although that fellow is troublesome to fight with, this little bit of warm up won't cause me any harm." Xiao Yan

helplessly eyed Ya Fei who was repeatedly sizing him up. He shook his head and bitterly said.

Hearing that there was nothing different in Xiao Yan's voice, Ya Fei finally sighed in relief. Her long eyes were filled with shock as she sized Xiao Yan up. She softly said, "Little Fellow, I remember that when you left Wu Tan City back then, it had not been long since you had broke through to to a Dou Zhe. Just how long has it only been... you are actually able to fight equally with Mu Zhan?"

Xiao Yan smiled. After experiencing that kind of tough training, this kind of a return was something that he felt to be only normal.

"Nalan xiao-jie, thank you for taking action..." Ya Fei took two steps forward, came to Nalan Yanran's side and smiled as she helped Xiao Yan thank her.

"Mister Yan Xiao is our Nalan clan's guest. It is only natural for me to step forward. Actually, with Mister Yan Xiao's strength, it appeared that my action may have been unnecessary..." Nalan Yanran glanced at Xiao Yan. When this fellow saw her, his expression began to gradually become indifferent. This kind of treatment, which appeared to be on the two ends of a pole when compared with the one he used with Ya Fei, really caused Nalan Yanran to be somewhat speechless.

"Ya Fei, we have not seen each other for two years. You don't need to ignore me in this manner, do you?" Standing by the side, Mu Zhan, who saw that Ya Fei did not even spare him a glance, could not help but bitterly smile as he asked.

"Young Master Mu, I wouldn't dare to. It is just that temper of yours is something that Ya Fei is not blessed enough to endure. I hope that in the future, you will not say those things that damage Ya Fei's reputation. I have never made promises of any engagement, so when have I become your woman?" Ya Fei glanced at this fellow and said with a cold smile.

Once she said those words, she once again walked back to Xiao Yan's side. She pulled at his sleeve and gently said, "Let's go somewhere else..."

Xiao Yan glance at the gentle faced Ya Fei and then watched Mu Zhan,

whose expression had become somewhat green in his fury. He nodded slightly and allowed Ya Fei to pull him toward the other side of the hall.

“That damn brat...” Mu Zhan’s eyes angrily stared at Xiao Yan’s back. He violently waved his hand and then shifted his gaze toward Nalan Yanran. He said, “Yanran, what exactly is this fellow’s background? Don’t just keep quiet. No matter how you put it, we have played and fought as children. Don’t tell me that you are not even willing to reveal this little bit of information?”

Seeing the fierce and brutal faced Mu Zhan, Yanran helplessly shook her head. She said, “To be honest, I am really unsure about the exact background of Yan Xiao. But his medicine refining skills are extraordinary. My grandfather’s ‘Searing Poison’ was something even Elder Gu He could do nothing about. However, he is able to expel it...”

“That is all that I know. In any case, you better not go to him and find trouble. Otherwise, you might find yourself faced with quite some trouble.” Nalan Yanran reminded him. She then turned around and slowly walked into the hall, leaving Mu Zhan standing alone on the same spot and clenching his teeth, unable to resign to the situation.

“I don’t care what your identity is... don’t give me the chance...” Mu Zhan clenched his teeth and ruthlessly said in a soft voice.

Chapter 301: Sudden Appearance of a Dou Huang's Presence

“Did you purposefully act so intimate with me to turn me into a shield to block that fellow?” Xiao Yan suddenly said with a faint smile as he and Ya Fei came to a stop near the entrance to the hall.

“I’m sorry...” Having her intention exposed by Xiao Yan, Ya Fei’s pretty face became bright red as she softly apologized, “I have really become afraid of his pestering. He won’t leave when he is beaten up, he won’t listen when I lecture him, so I can only do it this way...”

“You... you aren’t angry, are you?” Ya Fei looked at Xiao Yan and timidly asked. Although acting like this could help her extricate herself, it ended up resulting in the innocent Xiao Yan being hated by Mu Zhan without reason.

“Anyways, it’s not the first time that I experienced this...” Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head.

Hearing this, Yan Fei pursed up her red lips and smiled gently. However, she did not dare to speak, resulting in the atmosphere between the two of them to pleasantly become silent.

“Cough... why don’t you go and walk around. I need to go and help Grandfather Nalan to complete today’s poison removing session.” A long while later, Xiao Yan coughed softly and in an offhanded manner, lifted a cup of red wine from the silver plate a female servant was carrying passed. He tasted it a little before randomly pressing it into Ya Fei’s hand. With a smile, he then walked toward the side door of the hall.

Standing in the original spot, Ya Fei saw Xiao Yan off with her eyes. She gently shook the bright red wine within the wine cup. Under the reflection of the wine, her lovely face became even more red and more enchanting.

Ya Fei lifted the wine cup and headed out of the hall. She stood beside a pillar and shook the wine cup. As she recalled the aggressive and imposing manner that Xiao Yan had in the fight earlier, she become a

little confused. It had only been over a year since they last saw each other. The innocent young man back then had actually transformed into one who had such confidence.

“Ya Fei, what are you thinking about?” An old laughter suddenly sounded behind her. Primer Tengshan then walked over with a smile and asked.

“Ah? It’s nothing.” Having her thoughts interrupted, Ya Fei was shocked and hurriedly replied.

“Ha ha...” Primer Tengshan smiled and slowly walked forward. He spoke with a deeper meaning in his words, “What do you think of that little fellow, Yan Xiao?”

“He’s not bad.” Hearing the words he said, Ya Fei’s comment immediately left her mouth. Quickly following it, however, she appeared to have sensed something and hurriedly stopped her mouth. Her eyes stared at Primer Tengshan and softly asked, “What is the meaning of First Elder’s words?”

“Haha, if you feel that he is satisfactory, you can become a little more bold. I don’t have any intention of opposing...” Primer Tengshan smiled and said.

Hearing the meaning behind his words, a bright red color immediately stained her cheeks, as though she was a drunk person from having too much wine. She waved her hand and hurriedly said, “First Elder, I don’t have those kinds of feelings for Yan Xiao. He is just an ordinary friend of mine.”

“If you don’t have feelings, you can cultivate them...” Primer Tengshan smiled and said with a deeper meaning, “You should also know that as a member of a large clan like us, there is seldom any wedding agreement where both parties are willing. The clan is focused on interest. If one can find a person whom you don’t dislike and the clan doesn’t oppose, that is a very fortunate thing.”

“I will tell you something that will cause you to be quite sad. Before the appearance of Yan Xiao, if the clan’s internal elders were to vote to choose

the person most suitable for you, I'm afraid that it would have been likely for Mu Zhan to receive the most of votes. This is because from the two large clan's prospective, a marriage is something that benefits both parties..."

Hearing this, Ya Fei's hand that was holding the wine cup suddenly tightened.

"Ah." Following Ya Fei's reaction, Primer Tengshan sighed. He patted her shoulder and walked back into the hall.

With her teeth biting on her red lips, Ya Fei lowered her head to eye the red wine in the cup. That face which was enchanting, stunningly creature-like, had at the moment, contained a faint sadness that would break people's heart.

Ya Fei knew that Primer Tengshan was speaking the truth. Although being born in such a large clan would enable one to obtain a high status and position that countless people yearned for, some things could not be achieved, one would also lose many things at the same time. She did not have Nalan Yanran's training talent or good luck. Due to her status in the Misty Cloud Sect, the latter could easily escape the restraints that the clan gave her. Therefore back then, she did not have any fear as she went to the Xiao clan to cancel the engagement. Ya Fei also knew that she did not possess such ability.

Ya Fei linked her hands in front of her chest. She gently sat on the stone stairs. The night breeze came one wave after another, causing her heart to feel a little cold.

She lifted her head and eyed the bright moon in the sky. A long while later, Ya Fei's alluring eyes suddenly bent slightly, much like a fox's eyes, flashing both shrewdness and temptation.

"If I don't want to be controlled by the clan then... I can only control the clan..." Ya Fei softly whispered as her pretty eyes stared at the red wine in the cup. Within it, the enchanting and moving reflection appeared to quietly have something change from that moment...

"I don't have the training talent of Nalan Yanran but the Primer clan is a

business clan. With my ability, getting to the position of the person in charge does not appear to be too difficult...” Her delicate finger flicked against the wine cup. A clear sound that echoed. Being able to become the person in charge of the Primer Auction House Headquarters at such an age, Ya Fei’s talent in business and human resource management was something that could not be doubted.

After all, this world was not lacking people who had thousands or tens of thousands of loyal strong people as their subordinates despite not having even the strength to slaughter a chicken.

Hearing the clear sound, a faint arc formed on the corner of Ya Fei’s mouth. She was enchanting and moved with a natural charm. At this moment, she was undoubtedly even more beautiful compared to before.

Just as an unknown thing was sprouting in Ya Fei’s heart, a black robe gently covered her from her behind. A familiar gentle voice caused the heart of this woman, which was most sensitive at this moment, to secretly move a little.

“The weather is cold. Aren’t you afraid of getting sick...”

Ya Fei abruptly turned her head around. She blankly eyed the face which had appeared extremely ordinary after a change in appearance. In her trance-like state, the tip of her nose felt a little sour.

Ya Fei gently sniffed. Her hands pulled at the black robe and her delicate body was squeezed into it. A faint warm feeling shrouded her spirit which had turned cold with one sentence from Primer Tengshan.

Her long eyelashes blinked a little as she smiled and asked, “Have you finished?”

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded, his gaze swept across the enchanting and moving, pretty face. He felt somewhat strange. For some unknown reason, he realized that the current Ya Fei seemed to have something more compared to earlier... moreover... it caused people to be even more reluctant to shift their gazes...

“Are you alright?” Xiao Yan asked doubtfully.

“I’m very well...” Ya Fei blinked her eyes saucily at Xiao Yan as she smiled and said.

“Oh.” As he nodded, Xiao Yan lazily let out a yawn. He glanced at the hall which had remained noisy and could not help but shake his head. These people can really endure such a torment...

“Forget it, I cannot take it any longer. I am going back, are you coming?” Xiao Yan yawned once again and randomly asked Ya Fei.

“Ah...” Hearing this, Ya Fei was about to shake her head to reject him. However, when her hand gently stroked the black robe on his body, she hesitated for a moment before nodding her head and agreeing.

Ya Fei stood up. The two of them had just planned to leave when Xiao Yan’s somewhat weary expression suddenly changed. He immediately turned his head and eyed the north-west direction of the capital. There were two terrifying presences that had suddenly shot up to the sky.

“Hai Bo Dong? This old fellow has been missing for two days. Why is he fighting with someone? From the other person’s Qi, it appears that his strength isn’t lower than Hai Bo Dong...” Having fought together with Hai Bo Dong, Xiao Yan was quite familiar with his Qi. Immediately, he managed to identify it. The reason that his expression changed further was that there was another terrifying presence that was not weaker than Hai Bo Dong.

During the time that Xiao Yan was mumbling, two figures abruptly shot out from within the hall. Those two that had immediately appeared in front of Xiao Yan, were Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan who had similarly sensed something.

Behind Nalan Jie, Mu Zhan, Nalan Yanran and the others also came filing out. Their expressions were filled with shock as they eyed the north-west direction.

“Dou Huang?” Nalan Jie’s and Primer Tengshan’s expression were filled with seriousness as they eyed each other.

Hearing Nalan Jie’s and Primer Tengshan’s voices, the faces of Nalan

Yanran and the rest became shocked. Dou Huang? People of that level were basically at the peak of the empire. It was unexpected that there would be two of them that suddenly appeared.

“Let’s go and take a look.”

Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan spontaneously shot up into the sky. Two pairs of gorgeous Dou Qi wings swiftly agglomerated behind them. After which, they turned into two flowing lights and swiftly flew toward the spot where the aura had erupted from. They could not help but carefully handle this matter where strong people of such class had suddenly appeared in the imperial city.

“Hee hee, let’s also go and take a look. Dou Huang...”

Mu Zhan’s face let out a fanatic heat as he eyed the spot where Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan disappeared. His feet stepped off the ground and his body swiftly shot to the roof. Immediately, he became like a grasshopper as he began leaping and charging on the roof of the buildings. Behind him, Nalan Yanran, Liu Ling, and the others exhibited their respective great powers and followed closely.

A fight between Dou Huangs was not something that one could see just because they wanted to...

TL: Something that didn’t occur at one’s whim

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. Hai Bo Dong was his protective charm while he was making the trips to the Misty Cloud Sect. Therefore, nothing can happen to him before make the final trip. Otherwise, if Xiao Yan had to go to the Misty Cloud Sect, that huge being, alone, it would be something that would cause him quite a headache.

“You remain here and be careful. I will also go over and take a look...”
Xiao Yan mused for a moment before turning around and told Ya Fei by the side. The latter also knew the seriousness of the matter and obediently nodded her head. She did not say anything to stop him.

Xiao Yan’s feet pressed gently on the ground and leaped up onto the roof in a supple manner. His back trembled slightly as he summoned the

Purple Cloud Wings in front of everyone's stunned gazes.

With her red lips opened slightly as she watched Xiao Yan call out the wings, Ya Fei's pretty eyes were filled with disbelief...

The wings flapped and Xiao Yan's body instantly turned into a ray of light. After which, he used all his effort and shot in the north-west direction.

"Dou Qi Transformation Wings?"

When Mu Zhan, who was leaping on the roof, heard the breaking wind sound from behind him, he hurriedly turned his head around to take a look. Immediately, he foolishly watched Xiao Yan who was flapping his wings, swiftly fly passed.

"That fellow is of the Dou Wang class? How can it be?"

Mu Zhan was like an idiot as he stood on the rooftop, eyeing Xiao Yan blankly as the latter disappeared. A long while later, he turned his head around, only to realize that Nalan Yanran and the others behind him also had stunned faces.

"We've seen a ghost..." In the dark black night sky, the few young people uncertainly and angrily scolded themselves.

Chapter 302: Linen Robe Jia Lao

In the dark, night sky, two flashes flew past, much like falling stars.

Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan had faces that were as deep as water. Their gazes stared directly in the distant north-west direction. That place appeared to belong to the tomb of the Imperial Family within the capital. Usually, it was extremely remote. It was entirely unexpected that two Dou Huang would suddenly appear tonight.

“Huh?” During the flight, Primer Tengshan’s expression suddenly changed. His flying speed gradually slowed down. He eyed the flying human figure a short distance away who was following closely behind. With a stunned voice, he said, “This is... Yan Xiao? How can he transform Dou Qi into wings?”

At the time Primer Tengshan turned his head around, Nalan Jie by the side also sensed the movement in the air. When he turned his head around to take a look, shock also surfaced on his old face.

Of course, their hearts may be shocked, but the two of them were after all not of the younger generation like Mu Zhan and the others. Being well informed, they did not forget themselves. Although there was a pair of wings present behind Xiao Yan at the moment, they saw that his Qi still remained merely at the Dou Shi class.

“Old fellow, do you still recall that there was a special kind of Dou Technique that had been lost over the ages?” Tengshan slowed down his speed and eyed Xiao Yan who was swiftly flying over. He then suddenly spoke to Nalan Jie.

“You are saying.. a flying type Dou Technique right?” Nalan Jie was momentarily at a loss before he replied with a sudden understanding.

“Ah, I did not expect that young friend Yan Xiao had such a strong backing. He is even able to get his hands on the long lost flying Dou Technique. Looks like... the teacher or strength behind him has quite a great ability...” Tengshan said with a deeper meaning.

“Yes...” Nalan Jie nodded slightly. The importance that he attached to Xiao Yan could not help but increase greatly.

“Two old sirs, with this slow speed of yours, the fight might be over by the time we arrive.” Xiao Yan flapped his wings and appeared behind the two people in the front as he smiled and said.

“Ke ke, young friend Yan Xiao, you keep causing me to feel surprised. This flying Dou Technique is so rare, yet you are able to get your hands on it. Tsk tsk, you really shock people.” Tengshan laughed.

Hearing that Tengshan had revealed the origin of the wings on his back when he spoke, Xiao Yan was stunned for a moment. He then became at ease. These old fellows had lived for a very long. What they had seen and heard were naturally not something that he, as someone of the younger generation, could compare with. It was natural that they were able to recognize the flying Dou Technique at a glance.

“I had only obtained it coincidentally. It was purely luck.” Xiao Yan smiled. He immediately fondled his chin while facing the north-west direction and said with a smile, “Two sirs, let’s go.” Once he said those words, he flapped his wings slightly, took the lead and charged over.

“Ke ke, alright.” Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan smiled and nodded. The wings on their backs were flapped as they closely followed behind Xiao Yan.

Not long after the three of them disappeared into the night sky, Mu Zhan and the others far behind finally appeared feeling a little out of breath. They watched the three blurry lights on the horizon and could not help but shake their heads. The speed of those who possessed a pair of wings was really unmatched.

As they grew increasingly close to the place where the breaths had erupted, Primer Tengshan frowned slightly. A long while later, he suddenly asked with hesitation to Xiao Yan, “This Qi... why does it appear a little like Old Hai’s?”

Hai Bo Dong had lived in isolation for decades and had only recently returned to the capital. Due to being far away earlier, Primer Tengshan

had not been able to immediately identify it. Now that they were closer, he finally realized that this Qi was a little familiar.

“Haha, yes, it is indeed Old Hai.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded.

“Old Hai?” Hearing the conversation of the two of them, Nalan Jie’s shrivelled face could not help but twitch slightly. A moment later, he finally could not resist and he asked Primer Tengshan, “Old fellow, you recognize one of these two Dou Huangs’ presence?”

Hearing this, a pleased expression appeared on Primer Tengshan’s face. He mysteriously said, “Hee hee. you’ll know about it in a little while...” Once he said it, he smiled at Xiao Yan. The speed of the two of them rose once again. After which, they moved toward the spot where the Qis erupted.

Nalan Jie anxiously watched the two people in front of him. His eyebrows were knit together slightly as he muttered, “What is that fellow doing? Is he really acquainted with the owner of that Qi?”

After muttering doubtfully for a moment, Nalan Jie, who learned nothing, could only helplessly shake his head. He flapped his wings and hurriedly followed.

As they gradually drew closer to the spot where the breath was erupted from, Xiao Yan’s three man group also reduced their speeds. They looked at each other before stopping in the sky outside the huge tomb. Their expressions were serious as they eyed the two large clusters of light in the middle of the tomb.

The two clusters of light were white and yellow respectively. Those two terrifying Qis were also emitted from these two clusters of light. The two clusters of light flashed and soared in an agile manner. At the middle of the cluster of light, two human figures appeared and disappeared.

Each time the two light clusters made contact, they would emit a incomparably ferocious energy ripple. Under this energy ripple, even Xiao Yan’s three man group some distance away could not help but feel a stuffiness in their hearts.

The dark black night appeared to have been expelled from this region in the air above the tombs. The bright manner was like daytime.

The white colored light cluster carried an icy cold force that was unmatched. Each time the energy fluctuated, the water vapor in the surrounding air around the cluster of white colored light would instantly agglomerate into cold ice.

The yellow colored cluster of light was different from the white colored cluster of light. It faintly had a thick sturdy feeling like that of the land. Although the attacks from the white colored light cluster were extremely sharp, they were completely and easily dodged by him. Seeing the movement which had not sign of hesitation, it was obvious that the attack of the other party did not pose much of a threat to him.

“Ha ha, old man ice. I didn’t expect that after not seeing you for decades, your strength had decreased instead of increased. Back then, even I had to fear your ice cold attacks a little. But now, the threat has been greatly reduced.” There was a violent collision once again and an old loud laughter was emitted from within the yellow colored cluster of light.

“Humph. Old Demon. You have also not made much progress during these years. If you were to count your age, you appear to have reached your limit. If you cannot break through, I’m afraid that your end is coming. When that time comes, the Jia Ma Empire royalty which has lost your protection will no longer be this comfortable!” From within the white cluster of light, a snort that Xiao Yan was familiar with was emitted.

“Hee hee... the old me still has a very long time to live... why would I so easily... fall.” The old voice faintly laughed from within the yellow colored light cluster. Although these words were calm, it was not difficult for Xiao Yan and the others to hear some seriousness from within it.

“Che, I don’t think you believe those words of yours...”

“Ice Emperor?” Hearing this title that was once extremely prominent within the Jia Ma Empire, Nalan Jie was blank for a moment. He immediately widened his eyes, watched that Primer Tengshan who was smiling proudly and let out an involuntary cry, “Ice Emperor? That is Hai

Bo Dong? He is actually still alive?”

“Hee hee, why would Old Hai fall so easily? It is just that he lived outside in isolation for a few decades.” Primer Tengshan smiled and said. The shocked manner of Nalan Jie caused him to feel extremely pleased.

Hearing the words of Primer Tengshan that did not deny his hypothesis, Nalan Jie’s expression immediately became a little volatile. He was naturally extremely clear of the relationship between Hai Bo Dong and the Primer clan. Back then, when the position of the head of the Primer clan was empty for a long while, it was Hai Bo Dong who had been supporting this clan which had a long history. Under his management, this clan, did not end up declining at a time when it had no leader.

Currently, the strength of the three large clans were not far apart from each other. This, however, was excluding the Hai Bo Dong factor. A strong person of the Dou Huang class was sufficient to instantly raise the entire clan’s strength by a couple of times. The Primer clan which possessed a Dou Huang would not only be able to easily surpass the other two clans, but would also be able to alarm the Jia Ma Empire’s imperial family with its strength...

This was because the last time there was a political change in the Jia Ma Empire, the Jia Ma Empire imperial family back then was coincidentally also a huge clan within the last empire. Therefore, the imperial family had always been extremely alert within the shadows when it came to these large clans within the empire.

“This time around, things are a little troublesome...” Nalan Jie bitterly laughed as he muttered before finally sighing. He then shifted his gaze toward the tomb. Although things had become a little troublesome, Nalan Jie was not overly worried about this. There were always policies and measures to counter any issue. Even if Hai Bo Dong had once again returned to the Primer clan, the Nalan clan also had quite a good relationship with the Misty Cloud Sect due to Nalan Yanran. If they found themselves on opposing ends over a matter, even Hai Bo Dong would definitely not dare to randomly offend the Nalan clan and the Misty Cloud Sect.

This matter was also something that Primer Tengshan also understood. Therefore, he had only appeared pleased on the surface. He really did not have the boldness to do anything to the Nalan clan.

“Hearing their conversation, within that yellow colored light cluster should be the imperial family’s Jia Lao, right?” Nalan Jie voiced his thoughts.

“Yes. Other than that old fellow, there should not be anyone else who would dare to speak in such a manner to Old Hai.” Primer Tengshan smiled and nodded.

“After all the hassle, it seems that they are only sparring... they really made us worry over nothing.” Seeing that there was no struggle to the death as he had expected, Xiao Yan sighed in relief and helplessly said with a bitter smile.

“Young friend Yan Xiao, do you also know Old Hai?” Nalan Jie saw Xiao Yan’s expression and could not help but ask.

“Hee hee, it was really thanks to little brother Yan Xiao that Old Hai can return. Therefore, young friend Yan Xiao is also our Primer clan benefactor.” On one side, Primer Tengshan smiled and interrupted. His words purposefully described the relationship between Xiao Yan and the Primer clan as being very close.

Hearing this, Nalan Jie’s expression changed slightly, but it quickly recovered to its natural state. He went along with the situation and smiled again. The more he looked at Xiao Yan, the more he realized that this fellow was a mystery. This fellow was even able to come into contact with a Dou Huang. “What exactly is his identity?”

During the time that the three of them were conversing, the fight in the tomb area had also reached the end. Mu Zhan and the others were also panting as they appeared outside the tomb area. All of them were like monkeys as they leaped to the top of the trees. They watched Xiao Yan’s three man group which had stopped in the air with envy. After which, their gazes paused on the interior of the tomb area.

“This Qi... it seems to be great-grandfather’s...” Little Princess said in a

stunned voice as she frowned slightly and eyed that cluster of yellow colored light.

“Who is the other person? Within the Jia Ma Empire, Dou Huangs can be counted with one’s hands. The only Dou Huang around the capital should only be Sect Leader Yun Yun.” Mu Zhan said with a frown.

“That person isn’t Teacher...” Nalan Yanran took a few breaths to calm down, shook her head and said.

“Then who would it be?” Everyone looked at each other, feeling utterly confused. A strong person of such a class should not have appeared out of nowhere.

“Bang...”

Within the tomb area, the two clusters of light violently clashed. During this clash, the white colored light cluster was clearly at a disadvantage and was forced back for a long distance before coming to a stop.

“Ah, forget it. Let’s stop. Currently, I am indeed no match for you...” Hai Bo Dong admitted defeat somewhat helplessly within the cluster of white light.

“Ke ke, old man ice, your strength has really greatly declined...” The yellow colored cluster of light trembled slightly and the glow was slowly withdrawn. Finally, it revealed a white haired old man wearing a plain linen robe. He eyed Hai Bo Dong with a smile, who had similarly withdraw his aura, and said.

Hai Bo Dong rolled his eyes. He skimmed his lips and said, “Wait for some time. My strength will naturally recover, you need not be overly worried... Additionally, you can cast aside the thing that you are worried about. I have no intention of continuing to manage the Primer clan after my return this time around. Those people in the younger generation will settle everything properly.”

“He he, we are all old already. Why do we want to get involved with matters that give people a headache. If we have time, we can sip tea and roam around. How comfortable.” Hearing Hai Bo Dong’s words, the face of

the linen robed old man became much gentler as he smiled and said.

“Che, don’t think that I don’t know what you are worried about...” Hai Bo Dong coldly smiled and said.

The linen robe old man smiled and appeared not to be concerned. He turned his head and threw his sight to Xiao Yan’s group outside the tomb area. With a smile, he said, “Looks like we have disturbed quite a number of spectators tonight.”

The gaze of the linen robe old man swept through the crowd and finally stopped on the Little Princess who was trying to hide herself. He could not help but be stunned. Immediately, he shook his head helplessly.

“He he, Jia Lao, after not seeing you for a few years, you appear to be growing stronger in your old age.” Seeing the linen robe old man looking over, Primer Tengshan and Nalan Jie hurriedly greeted.

“I didn’t expect that I would have alarmed both of you and caused you to hurry over. I’m really sorry. Being older, it seems that I have become more and more willful...” The linen robe old man smiled and nodded.

“Jia Lao really knows how to joke.” Hearing this, Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan hurriedly accompanied him in laughing.

The old man who was addressed as Jia Lao, swept his gaze across them and finally stopped on Xiao Yan. When his muddled gaze swept across the pair of wings on his back, he was momentarily blank. He then said with surprise, “Eh, this is? Flying Dou Technique? Who is this young fellow?”

“The little me is Yan Xiao. It’s an honor to meet you, Jia Lao...” Xiao Yan bowed his body slightly and smiled softly.

“Tsk tsk, you’re quite good. Being able to possess such a rare Dou Technique at such a young age. Little fellow, you don’t appear to be someone simple.” Jia Lao warmly said with a smile.

“Huh, you have also run over here?” With a flash of white light, Hai Bo Dong appeared in front of Xiao Yan and said with a smile.

“You have been missing for two days. I thought that you had run away...”

Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and said.

“Hee hee, how can it be... it is just that this old demon saw me. He was afraid that I would do something that would damage the stability of the empire. After which, he pulled me aside and taught me a lesson.” Hai Bo Dong ridiculed.

“You, this fellow...” Hearing these words, Jia Lao could only helplessly shake his head.

“Old man ice, this little friend, is he your disciple? It seems that his talent is quite good.” Jia Lao’s old experienced gaze watched Xiao Yan. When he saw the tone that the two used to converse with each other, Jia Lao smiled and asked.

Hearing this, not only did Mu Zhan and the rest instantly straighten their ears, even Nalan Jie also secretly threw his gaze over. He also really wanted to know what exactly the relationship between Xiao Yan and this person who was formerly the Ice Emperor.

Hearing Jia Lao’s words, Hai Bo Dong was at a loss. Immediately, he laughed out loud and patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders. However, the words he said caused the faces of everyone, including that Jia Lao, to be completely stunned.

“My disciple? Ha ha, I also want it to be so. Unfortunately, I don’t have that qualification...”

Chapter 303: Jia Lao's Strength

“Not qualified?”

Some shock surfaced on Jia Lao's gentle old face. He immediately turned a strange gaze toward Xiao Yan. With Hai Bo Dong's Dou Huang class strength, he actually said that he was not qualified to be this little fellow's teacher? Did he really have such great potential?

Under the night sky, Nalan Yanran and the others could only speechlessly watch the laughing Hai Bo Dong. After they were dumbstruck for a while, they treated these words of Hai Bo Dong as a joke. In this Jia Ma Empire, if a Dou Huang were to release news that he wanted to accept disciples, there would be an unknown number of people with outstanding talent swarming over quickly to fight for the spot. Being able to become the disciple of a Dou Huang basically represented that one possessed the capability to become a strong person.

“Haha, Old Hai is just joking. Jia Lao, please don't mind him. It's just that the little me already has a teacher and naturally cannot switch to someone else so carelessly.” Xiao Yan shook his head as he said with a smile.

By his side, Hai Bo Dong was silent. Back then, despite having recovered his Dou Huang strength, Xiao Yan still gave him an extremely dangerous feeling. Later on, the terrifying level of the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ that Xiao Yan had displayed when fighting with the two mysterious Dou Huangs caused Hai Bo Dong's fear of him to grow even more.

Although Xiao Yan's current strength had appeared to have greatly declined since he displayed the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame's power, within Hai Bo Dong's heart, Xiao Yan was almost a strong person that was of his equal or even one that surpassed him. Therefore, when he heard Jia Lao ask if Xiao Yan was his disciple, he could not help but laugh involuntarily and reply in this manner.

Hearing this, Jia Lao smiled slightly. His gaze swept across Hai Bo Dong's face without leaving any trace. His heart become increasingly shocked.

With his knowledge of Hai Bo Dong, he naturally knew that the latter's character would seldom joke in such a manner.

"Don't tell me that what he said is the truth?" Jia Lao muttered softly in his heart and could not help but asked, "Young friend Yan Xiao, may I know the name of your teacher? Perhaps the old me is acquainted with him."

"Haha, I'm sorry, Jia Lao. Before I came out, teacher had told me not to reveal his name since he likes to keep a low profile and has been living deep in the mountains all his life. I think that Jia Lao may have never heard of him." Xiao Yan said apologetically.

"Ke ke, it doesn't matter. There are many strong people who have unique characters. I have also met some strong people that live in isolation and know of their indifferent character." Jia Lao smiled and shook his head. His heart still had some doubt regarding Xiao Yan's words. Being able to let Hai Bo Dong say those words was a treatment that even Jia Lao himself had never received. Therefore, Yan Xiao's teacher should be someone who was stronger than Hai Bo Dong or even himself...

Although the Jia Ma Empire was vast enough where it was not surprising for countless of strong people to live in isolation deep within the mountains, as the guardian of the empire's imperial family, Jia Lao was able to borrow the empire's ability and vaguely learn about some of the strong people that lived in isolation within the Jia Ma Empire. However, he had really never heard of any place where there was someone living in isolation who corresponded to the legendary class strong person that he had imagined.

With their bodies suspended in midair, Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan secretly exchanged glances. They could naturally sense that Hai Bo Dong's words were not a joke. If it was true, then the teacher behind Yan Xiao... would have a strength that was terrifyingly strong...

"Luckily I did not become enemies with him..." As the two of them exchanged glances, they managed to spot the rejoiceful emotion within each other. As the person in charge of their own clan, they clearly knew

just what kind of terrifying power the strong people of such a class possessed.

“Alright, alright. It is already quite late. Everyone should go back.” Hai Bo Dong lifted his head, eyed the silver moon that was gradually descending. He let out a yawn, clapped his hand and said.

“Ke ke, young friend Yan Xiao should also be attending tomorrow’s Alchemist Grand Meeting, right?” Jia Lao nodded his head and randomly asked.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. Jia Lao’s name was something that he had heard a couple of times from Hai Bo Dong. When he was fighting with the two mysterious Dou Huangs just outside Yan City back then, he had also heard the title ‘Old Demon’ from the two of them. In the Jia Ma Empire, he was the only one known to be able to contend with Queen Medusa. Therefore, the current Xiao Yan who did not have Yao Lao to protect him was extremely fearful of this Jia Lao. When he spoke, he was extremely courteous and cautious.

As he recalled Queen Medusa, Xiao Yan’s hand involuntarily rubbed the ‘Seven Colored Heaven Swallowing Python’ who was quietly sleeping in Xiao Yan’s sleeve. Luckily, this little fellow was born with the knowledge to perfectly hide its Qi. Otherwise, it would definitely be discovered by strong people like the Old Demon and Hai Bo Dong.

“Ah, this little fellow is also an unstable bomb...” Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head. Just thinking of Queen Medusa’s icy manner, his heart began to palpitate. This woman may be bewitching to the point of being intoxicating to people, but when she killed people, it was as easy and neat as killing a chicken. Xiao Yan believed that had he not promised Queen Medusa to help her obtain that so called ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ medicinal formula this time around, she would definitely take his little life the next time she woke up.

“It seems I face restrictions everywhere when Teacher is not around. Looks like I need to hurry up and get my hands on the Nalan clan’s ‘Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva’. Otherwise, it is really uncomfortable having

my life molded in someone else's hand..." Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head. After losing Yao Lao, he finally realized that his situation was actually very dangerous.

"Ke ke, that thing is the stage for young people to compete. Tomorrow, I may go and take a look and see how many outstanding people that even Old Man Hai cannot stop praising." Jia Lao smiled and turned his gaze to the top of that huge tree. He said faintly, "Little Yue-er, it is already so late, yet you are still blindly muddling along outside. You better follow me back."

"Yes..." Hearing Jia Lao's words, the Little Princess who had usually appeared quirky could only helplessly give a reply. She then obediently came forward. Jia Lao beckoned with his hand and a suction force pulled her to his side where she was suspended without moving.

"Niece Yanran, Liu Ling boy, help me send my regards when you see your Teachers." Carrying the Little Princess with one hand, Jia Lao smiled toward Nalan Yanran and Liu Ling. Immediately, his gaze was thrown at Mu Zhan, whose face was filled with respect. He said with another smile, "Little fellow from the Mu clan. Have you returned? This time around, you better be still and quiet. Otherwise, you will have to be expelled out again."

"Definitely." Hearing this, Mu Zhan's head nodded like a little chicken feeding on grain. In front of this old demon whom Mu Zhan had to respectfully greet upon sight, his arrogant and imposing manner no longer remained.

Seeing that they were about to disband, Xiao Yan lifted his head. He cupped his fist together at Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan before facing Hai Bo Dong and asking, "Shall we go?"

"Ah, let's go." Hai Bo Dong lazily nodded his head. He only said his goodbyes to Jia Lao. As for Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan, they were simply ignored by him. The pair of icy wings gradually surfaced. He flapped them, carrying a cold wind as he disappeared into midair.

"Ke ke, Jia Lao, goodbye." Xiao Yan smiled at Jia Lao. The pair of wings on his back were flapped and he turned into a ray of light which followed

Hai Bo Dong in front of him.

Seeing Xiao Yan and Hai Bo Dong leaving, Jia Lao also did not remain any longer. Carrying the Little Princess with one hand, his pale-yellow colored Dou Qi wings flapped. With a 'xiu' sound, he disappeared from sight, leaving only a faint laughter that lingered in midair.

"Everyone, please scatter..."

In the night sky, two rays of light swiftly flashed and disappeared.

"Hey, you didn't leak out any information regarding me, did you?" Xiao Yan, who was following closely behind Hai Bo Dong, suddenly said.

"No... I know that you want to hide your identity. I did not mention even the slightest bit regarding you to that Old Demon. You don't need to worry." Hai Bo Dong shook his head and said.

"Try your best to keep it a secret. For the Misty Cloud Sect to survive in the Jia Ma Empire for so many years, it is likely that they have quite a good relationship with the imperial family. We must be careful." Xiao Yan sighed.

"Have your injuries not recovered yet?" Hai Bo Dong nodded before abruptly asking.

The tip of Xiao Yan's heart jumped. His face remained unchanged as he nodded slightly and said, "That thing is really too terrifying. The aftermath is really too serious... but I think it should be soon. As long as I get my hands on the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva', I should be able to recover."

"Back then I had already told you not to be so impulsive, yet you insisted on doing that crazy act of merging two 'Heavenly Flames'..." Hai Bo Dong helplessly shook his head and said, "That Old Demon's strength has increased to much greater heights. Back then when I exchanged blows with him, I was entirely at a disadvantage. I think that the current him should be around an eight star or even nine star Dou Huang. Ah... if he has the luck, he might be able... to break through the barrier and become a Dou Zong."

“He’s that strong?” Although Xiao Yan had already anticipated this in his heart, he still could not help but be shocked when he heard Hai Bo Dong admit it.

“That’s right... due to the relationship between me and the Primer clan, that fellow had always been very attentive toward me. He’s afraid that I would take advantage of the situation and overthrow their Jia Ma Empire imperial family. Yesterday, I accidentally allowed him to discover my Qi. From his words, he says that he wants to spar with me but does he really think I am a fool? Isn’t he clearly trying to display his strength and scare me off. That old man really won’t die.” Hai Bo Dong scolded.

“He won’t be an obstacle to our matter, will he?” Xiao Yan frowned slightly and softly asked.

“That won’t happen. Didn’t you see that the old fellow had also begun to be a little afraid of you? Uh, or perhaps I should say that he is afraid of the teacher behind you that doesn’t exist. As long as your strength has not been exposed, he would not dare to touch you in any way.” Hai Bo Dong voiced his thoughts.

TL: Kinda confusing since Hai Bo Dong says that Xiao Yan had a lie in the raws. What I think it’s referring to is Xiao Yan’s lack of strength.

“Therefore, you need to quickly recover your strength. As long as you recover your strength, we don’t need to be too worried of that Old Demon.”

“I will do my best. However, if he goes overboard, then I will throw an ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ at the capital even if I have to endure serious injuries...” Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and said in a casual manner.

“Uh... you lunatic...” Hearing this, Hai Bo Dong opened his mouth. A long while later, he finally bitterly choked out a sentence. After which, he no longer dared to say anything.

Seeing that Hai Bo Dong had become quiet, Xiao Yan smiled and twisted his neck. In his heart, he softly muttered, “Tomorrow is the Alchemist Grand Meeting. Ah, I better get my hands on that ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ medicinal formula first. Before I go to the Misty Cloud Sect, I need to first

calm Queen Medusa, this female fiend...”

Chapter 304: Fa Ma, Yao Ye. The Grand Meeting Begins!

The next day, there were no clouds in the blue sky for tens of thousands of kilometers. The sunlight was warm, yet not overbearing. The occasional breeze that brushed past carried away the noise within the city, causing one to feel very refreshed.

Today there was a great event within the Jia Ma Empire. The Alchemist Grand Meeting would begin today.

The moment the first rays of sunlight broke through the boundary of the land and shone upon the city that had a rich history, groups of human figures in long alchemist robes began to appear on the quiet streets.

These people who had an occupation that was highly regarded were usually seldomly seen en masse. Due to their great strength and their incomparable importance, alchemists appeared to be somewhat mysterious and revered in ordinary people's hearts. Today, these alchemists of high status were like ants leaving their nest, repeatedly swarming out from the various resting places in the capital. Although the paths they took differed, their final destination was that ancient looking alchemist association that stood in the center of the city.

Today, all the shops within the Jia Ma Sacred City were opened much earlier than usual. Countless people climbed out of their warm beds, stood at the door and eyed the large group of alchemists bustling through the streets. Their gazes were filled with heat and respect.

The Alchemist Grand Meeting during these few days would be the Jia Ma Sacred City's most lively and fiery period of the entire year...

The alchemists that were usually rarely seen, came out from all directions today and appeared at a scale similar to a military unit. This kind of majestic scene was something that people only had the luck to see during the Alchemist Grand Meeting...

On this special day, Xiao Yan had also woken up very early. He sat cross

legged on the bed and quietly readjusted his condition for an hour. When his body had achieved its peak condition, he finally slowly opened his eyes.

Xiao Yan lazily twisted his body. He heard some crackling sounds within his body. With a slight smile, he came down from the bed and walked out of the inner hall. At one glance, he saw Hai Bo Dong who was by the window side.

“You’re awake? Today the number of alchemists appearing in the Jia Ma Sacred City will likely reach a frightening number. It is indeed worthy of being the Alchemist Grand Meeting. Only this kind of great event can summon all of the alchemists within the empire.” Hai Bo Dong’s gaze eyed the street where alchemists were repeatedly flashing past. He could not help but click his tongue and praise.

“Alchemists are also people. They also need the honor and approval... this Alchemist Grand Meeting will be their best stage.” Xiao Yan poured a cup of tea for himself, sipped a little and said with a faint smile.

Hai Bo Dong turned his body around, stared at Xiao Yan, with a smile he asked, “Actually, I am very curious. With your ability, you would actually be thinking of participating in the Alchemist Grand Meeting. Although this kind of Grand Meeting is rarely seen, it does not quite suit your ability, does it?”

Xiao Yan smiled, lifted his teacup with both hands and said softly, “I don’t have a choice. Who asked this Grand Meeting’s Champion prize to be something that interests me. That ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ medicinal formula will be very useful to me...”

“Although you are not an alchemist, I think you should also know what kind of alluring ability a medicinal formula has toward an alchemist. That tier six medicinal formula has an attractiveness that would not be lower than a Di Class Dou Technique...”

Hai Bo Dong helplessly shook his head, smacked his lips and said, “With your ability, participating in this Grand Meeting is just like a Dou Huang charging into the competition ground of a group of Dou Zhe.”

“You really overestimate me...” Xiao Yan shook his head slightly and said

with a smile, “If it was before I have displayed the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’, becoming the champion of the Grand Meeting would be as easy as flipping one’s hand. Although, now... my spirit is damaged and my strength is much weaker than before. And the most important thing when refining medicinal pill is Spiritual Strength. Therefore, I don’t have absolute confidence in winning the Grand Meeting that I am participating in this time around.”

“Uh... it can’t be that serious right? If an alchemist grandmaster who can refine a tier six medicinal pill was to really lose in this kind of competition to the younger generation, then...” Hai Bo Dong’s expression was strange as he eyed Xiao Yan and said.

“That would really be embarrassing, right?”

Xiao Yan smiled and continued. He stood up and said, “If I don’t even possess this little bit of mental fortitude, then how would I go and pursue the long alchemist road?”

“Alright, it is nearly about time. Let’s go...” Xiao Yan placed the teacup down. He smiled, turned around and walked out of the door. Behind him, Hai Bo Dong helplessly shook his head and could only follow.

They walked out of the room and climbed down the stairs of the inn. The tier two alchemist robe on Xiao Yan’s body attracted many eyes, but Xiao Yan was not very concerned about these things. His gaze randomly swept past a couple of alchemists who were passing by the door. After which, he slowly walked out.

As he walked on the street, those curious respectful gazes that were repeatedly shot at him caused Xiao Yan to purse up his lips. The corner of his mouth contained a slight smile.

On the two sides of the spacious street, young ladies with curvaceous and slim figures softly laughed melodiously. They threw their shy and worshipful gazes towards those alchemists walking on the street. For these young ladies who belonged to the age where they were filled with tricks and delusions, the mysterious and deep alchemists were like magnets that tightly attracted their gazes.

In this era, alchemists had an easier time letting these young ladies fall in love than with those princes in fairy tales. From this, one could tell just what kind of prestigious status an alchemist had in the continent where Dou Qi was most respected.

The city permeated with liveliness and enthusiasm, washing away the rigorous and solemn aura until nothing was left. Feeling the passion within the city, Xiao Yan's calm heart had also begun to secretly beat faster. No matter how outstanding his mental strength was, he was after all still a young person. As long as one was a young person, one's heart would be frivolous and wild. The thing about young people that others were envious of, was them striving forth energetically, persevering untiringly until they succeeded.

Xiao Yan walked slowly toward the alchemist association. His gaze would occasionally sweep past those alchemists that had passed by him. In his heart, he muttered in surprise, "Looks like the people that the Grand Meeting attracted are not weak. Not only have the peak alchemists in the empire swarmed over, many from other countries have come. I wonder if there will be a dark horse from another country that might suddenly appear during the Grand Meeting... if that is the case, then this will be a little fun."

Although Xiao Yan's heart thought such malice thoughts, his face did not reveal any of it on the surface. He slowly passed through a few streets, lifted his head and eyed the ancient association that stood at the edge of his sight. He sighed gently, turned around and glanced at Hai Bo Dong who was leisurely following behind him. After which, he lifted his leg and walked toward the association.

After entering the association, Xiao Yan could not help but shake his head helplessly when he saw the association's entrance that appeared to have been completely blocked. He pushed his way into the human crowd. His body was like a fish entering the sea, passing through the crowds in a strange manner.

After undergoing Yao Lao's dodge ability training in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, Xiao Yan managed to save quite a lot of trouble in such

a situation now.

As his body swayed slightly, Xiao Yan arrived at the front of the crowd and released a long sigh of relief as he finally entered the front gate of the Alchemist Association. His pupils constricted as he turned his head to look around and saw Hai Bo Dong, who looked as if he was sleepwalking, closely following him.

“Truly worthy of being a Dou Huang, accompanying me so closely yet I was still unable to detect him even slightly...” Xiao Yan secretly admired him in his heart as he entered the Alchemist Association and strolled around the hall. He was just about to enter the east zone when he actually ran into Ao Tuo and his group, who were surprised to see him. They immediately started to laugh.

“Come with me little guy, the venue of the Grand Meeting is not inside the Alchemist Association...” Ao Tuo said with a smile as he patted Xiao Yan’s shoulder.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded as he greeted Frank as well as both of the Xue and Mei girls.

“Little guy, this time our Black Rock City’s Association has come to see you. Be sure not to lose to that Liu Ling.” Frank smiled and said. He had a lot of confidence in Xiao Yan since the previous internal tests.

“Hehe, I’ll try.”

Xiao Yan smiled. He suddenly saw Ao Tuo staring with surprise at Hai Bo Dong, and introduced, “Master Ao Tuo, This is a friend of mine, Hai Bo Dong...”

“Oh... ke ke, how are you? Black Rock City’s Ao Tuo, Frank...” Ao Tuo and Frank smiled and nodded. Due to Hai Bo Dong having lived in isolation for a few decades, the both of them were not too familiar with the name Hai Bo Dong. They only vaguely felt that the name was a little familiar to the ear. Ao Tuo and Frank were of the Dou Ling class and as alchemists, their Spiritual Strength was much higher than those of the same class. Therefore, despite being ignorant of the background of the other party, they could faintly sense with their Spiritual Perception that

the old man in front of them had something profound and they did not dare to slight him.

“Yes.” Hai Bo Dong merely nodded faintly at the polite etiquette of the two of them. His calm manner caused the two of them to be at a loss. Ling Fei, who could not have the slightest imperfection in her eyes, widened her eyes and stared. Just as she was about to shout, she was quickly grabbed by Ao Tuo.

“I’m sorry two grandmasters, Old Hai’s character is like that. He has no intention of going against the two of you.” Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly. He could only smile slightly and smooth things over. Fortunately, Ao Tuo and Frank were not really concerned. They smiled carelessly and changed the conversation topic. The group conversed and laughed as they walked out of the hall. With Ao Tuo leading the way, they walked out from the back door of the association and headed toward a spot south of the city.

“The location for the Grand Meeting this time around is the Imperial Family’s plaza. The size of that place can hold tens of thousands of people, and it completely meets the size needed for this Grand Meeting.” As they walked on the street, Ao Tuo smiled and explained, “After an initial estimation, there should be around more than two thousand people participating in this Grand Meeting. This is the greater number of participants compared to the previous few Grand Meetings.”

“Over two thousand people...” This number caused Xiao Yan to suck his tongue involuntarily. It should be known that the requirements to become an alchemist were very harsh. Saying that only one in a thousand or even one in ten thousand could become an alchemist was not an exaggeration. The two thousand people currently here may be the gathering of over half the alchemists in the Jia Ma Empire.

“The Grand Meeting is divided into a few examination rounds. Each examination will eliminate quite a number of people. In the later rounds, the examination difficulty becomes much greater. The last person who finally remains will be the final champion...”

“Ah,” Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly. Thinking about having over two thousand people simultaneously raising their flames and refining pills in the same open field, Xiao Yan felt a little excited. That spectacular manner was likely to be extremely thrilling.

While he spoke, the imperial family plaza, that Ao Tuo had mentioned early, had gradually appeared in their sight. Xiao Yan raised his eyes and watched. The edge of his sight could actually only see a small portion of the huge plaza.

Currently, there were fully armed soldiers who were stationed outside the plaza to maintain order. This kind of Grand Meeting had gathered strong people from everywhere. If a riot were to occur, the capital would receive a huge blow. Therefore, the imperial family was extremely cautious regarding maintaining order.

There were inspectors from the Alchemist Association stationed at the entrance of the plaza. Only the people from the association and the participants were allowed to enter from this entrance. The entrance to the audience seats was located in another place.

Under Ao Tuo's lead, Xiao Yan and the others did not face the slightest hindrance as they entered the plaza. After walking up a high slope to enter the plaza, that enormous open area was finally completely displayed in Xiao Yan's sight.

Standing at the top of the slope, Xiao Yan eyed that green rock plaza that was large to the point of being ridiculous. He could not help but shake his head and praise.

The plaza was round in shape, with countless seats located on two sides of it. It seemed that those were seats for the audience. Opposite the audience seats, there were VIP seats which were decorated in a much more luxurious manner. These were specially catered for the upper echelons of the association and the heads of those large strengths.

As his gaze swept over the incomparably large open ground, Xiao Yan discovered that thousands of green rock square tables were actually placed openly and neatly in it. These square tables were orderly scattered and

were placed extremely precisely. At a glance, they were like a green rock military unit standing still.

Currently, there were already quite a number of alchemists participating in the competition quietly seated cross legged on a rock chair behind the green rock tables within the open ground. As time flowed, moving closer to the time beginning of the competition, more and more alchemists swarmed out from the path and searched for their seats according to the number tag that they had received.

Ao Tuo glanced at the sky as he smiled and said, “Let’s go to the VIP seats first. There is still some time until the start of the Grand Meeting. There, you can meet some important people who have significant power. This may be useful to you.”

“Ah.” Last night, Xiao Yan had already seen even the guardian of the imperial family, the mysterious Jia Lao. Therefore, he did not express an opinion in regards to the people of significant power that Ao Tuo had mentioned. However, it was currently still quite early so he randomly nodded his head.

Seeing that there were no objections, Ao Tuo and Frank took the lead and brought the few of them toward the VIP seats. When they were about to enter the VIP section, Ao Tuo suddenly pointed at the front row. There was already a row of people seated. Among them, there was the deputy chairman of the Alchemist Association, Qie Mi Er. Beside him sat an old man wearing a purple colored alchemist robe.

“That is the chairman of the Jia Ma Empire Alchemist Association, Lord Fa Ma. I have heard that the current him is about to step into the tier six alchemist level. In the alchemist world within the Jia Ma Empire, Lord Fa Ma’s reputation would be about the same when compared to Pill-King Gu He. Even when Gu He meets Lord Fa Ma, he must be a little more courteous. Back then, before Gu He gained fame, Lord Fa Ma had given him quite a lot of care. It would not be overboard to say that he was a patron of Lord Fa Ma...” Ao Tuo softly said.

Note: The lord here is used as a respectful term

“Hei, I didn’t expect that old fellow to still be alive. These old things are more undying than I thought...” Hai Bo Dong narrowed his eyes as he stood beside Xiao Yan. When he heard Ao Tuo making the introductions, he abruptly raised his head. He glanced at the old man and said.

“Oh?”

Xiao Yan’s eyebrows twitched slightly. He eyed that dried tree bark like face of the old man that appeared to be dying. His gaze was somewhat strange. From what he had heard, this old man should be the leader of the Jia Ma Empire’s alchemist world.

The old man with bleary eyes appeared to have sensed the gazes focused on him and suddenly turned his head around. He turned his seemingly perplexed gaze toward Xiao Yan’s side. A friendly smile appeared on the dried skin on his face.

Seeing that old man had turned his head over, Ao Tuo and Frank hurriedly bowed and greeted. after which, they moved along the corridor and carefully walked to the front row. They spoke respectfully to the old man, “Lord Fa Ma, it has been a few years since we last met. You are still filled with the same vigor.”

“Ke ke, it’s Ao Tuo and Frank from the Black Rock City, right? The both of you are quite good. You’ve actually become tier four alchemists in these years. Your progress is quite fast...” The old man who was addressed as Fa Ma swept his turbid gaze at the two of them and laughed softly.

“It’s all because of Lord Fa Ma’s lectures the last time around.” Ao Tuo respectively smiled and said.

“All that I can speak about is some of my personal experience. The most important thing is depending on yourselves...” Fa Ma smiled and shook his head. He suddenly turned his gaze toward Xiao Yan behind Ao Tuo. With a friendly smile, he said, “This little friend must be the one who obtained the best result during the association’s test this time around, right? His name... seemed to be called Yan Xiao.”

“Chairman Fa Ma, This little one is Yan Xiao.” Xiao Yan did not dare to slight this person whose reputation in the Jia Ma Empire Alchemy world

was greater than Gu He. He bowed and smiled as he replied.

“Haha, most heroes are from the young. At such an age, you can refine the ‘Black Iron Spiritual Leaf’ so many times. I remember that back then, Gu He, that boy did not have this kind of ability...” Fa Ma’s voice was neither hurried nor slow. Although it was a little hoarse, it had a certain magical-like property that did not allow others to interrupt his words.

Xiao Yan calmly smiled, but did not continue to say anything on this topic.

Fa Ma smiled and stared at Xiao Yan, his gaze seemed to have a deeper meaning as he paused on that calm face for a while. Sensing his gaze, Xiao Yan abruptly felt alarmed. “He... don’t tell me that he has seen through this disguised appearance?”

Just as Xiao Yan was imagining things in his heart, Fa Ma appeared to have sensed his uneasiness. The latter immediately said softly with a smile, “Little friend, as long as you are not targeting the association, the old me won’t be nosy...”

Although Fa Ma’s laughter caused the surrounding association elders to feel baffled, Xiao Yan secretly sighed in relief. He threw a thankful gaze at Fa Ma.

“Che, old fellow who won’t die. It seems that the longer you live, the more you like talking...” The sudden appearance of a cold laughter, caused the expressions of all those on the VIP seats to change drastically. The expression of Qie Mi Er, who was seated by Fa Ma’s side, sank as he cried in a low voice, “Who is it?”

When this cold laughter rang, Xiao Yan helplessly sighed in his heart. Other than Hai Bo Dong who was behind him, who else would be this rude when he spoke?

The cold laughter also caused Fa Ma to be at a loss. Quickly following which, however, he turned his gaze behind Xiao Yan and muttered, “This Qi... it’s icy like a cold ice... don’t tell me... Old Man Ice?” When he said up to this point, more shock clearly appeared on his face.

“Hee hee, Old Man Fa, I didn’t think that you would still remember me. It isn’t easy...” The human figure behind Xiao Yan flashed. Hai Bo Dong slowly walked forward under the stunned gazes of Ao Tuo, Xue Mei and the others. He proceeded to directly sit by Fa Ma’s side and opened his mouth to laugh.

“You actually haven’t died? Didn’t Queen Medusa end up... doing that to you?” Fa Ma was shocked as he stared at Hai Bo Dong by his side and could not help but question.

“I have luckily survived...” Hai Bo Dong smacked his lips. There was some remaining fear in his eyes as he sighed, “That woman... is really terrifying...”

“You are really a fellow with a tough life... but it is good that you are still alive. At least an old fellow like me will not be too lonely, ha ha...” Fa Ma’s withering tree like face moved as he laughed out loud.

Hearing the conversation between the two of them, those elders of the association who were originally displeased with Hai Bo Dong’s impertinent words immediately shrunk back. According to what Fa Ma had said, this unknown old man was actually a great character who had a humble appearance.

Standing behind Ao Tuo, Ling Fei and Xue Mei were completely stunned as they eyed Hai Bo Dong who was carelessly chatting with Fa Ma to kill time. At this moment, they finally understood that this old man who appeared extremely ordinary was actually a strong person who hid his skills.

“This fellow, why is it that all those he befriends are people of such a level?” The two girls exchanged glances before turning their strange gazes toward the Xiao Yan by the side, who was shaking his head helplessly.

The familiarity between Hai Bo Dong and Fa Ma clearly caused Ao Tuo and Frank to be startled. Some time later, Ao Tuo, who had recovered, suddenly had his expression change slightly. He softly muttered, “Hai Bo Dong? Hai Bo Dong? The Ice Emperor of the Ten Strong back then... seemed to be called by this name right?”

As he thought this in his heart, Ao Tuo tilted his head and exchanged glances with Frank. They could see the shock within each other's eyes. They did not expect that this kind of antique level person would still be alive. Moreover, his relationship with Xiao Yan did not appear to be a simple one...

"This little fellow hides really deeply..." Just like Xue Mei and Ling Fei, Ao Tuo and Frank also stared at Xiao Yan with strange eyes. In their hearts, they were uncertain why a young man who had stepped into the alchemist world not long ago was actually able to get to know such a strong person.

Xiao Yan stood on the same spot and could only helplessly endure the numerous strange gazes. He suddenly realized that Hai Bo Dong had said something to Fa Ma who had once again turned toward him. The current Fa Ma was frowning slightly as he swept his gaze over Xiao Yan, seemingly searching for something.

"Why?" Seeing Fa Ma's manner, Hai Bo Dong could not help but ask in surprise. He had simply mentioned that Xiao Yan's training talent was not bad, but he did not expect the other party to react like this.

"Haha, for some unknown reason, I seem to sense a Qi of someone I have met before on young friend Yan Xiao..." Fa Ma coughed gently and said somewhat uncertainly.

"Have met before?" Xiao Yan blinked his eyes. There was a change in his heart as he muttered, "Don't tell me that he sensed Queen Medusa's presence?"

"Ke ke, perhaps I have sensed wrongly. When one is old, one tends to hallucinate more..." When Fa Ma sensed again, he did not have the same feeling as before. Fa Ma shook his head with some disappointment. He leaned against the chair, appearing a little absent minded as he entered a trance while his memory played...

Back then, when Fa Ma was still young, he had coincidentally met an old man, whose ability was unfathomable, while he was roaming the continent. Due to some reason, the old man and Fa Ma lived together for

three days. During those three days, the old man casually imparted some things to him. However, Fa Ma benefitted greatly from those things. By borrowing what the old man had taught, the originally unknown Fa Ma returned to the Jia Ma Empire and advanced step by step until this stage today. It was also because he had reached this step that Fa Ma increasingly realized just how terrifying the ability of that mysterious old man back then was...

The vague Qi that he sensed on Xiao Yan a moment ago was quite similar to the one that the old man back then had... it was the reason that Fa Ma had abruptly lost himself.

Since Xiao Yan had guilty conscious, he did not dare to pursue this topic. However, when he was about to change topic, an old laughter was emitted from a passageway in the middle of the seats, "Ke ke, old man Hai, Young friend Yan Xiao, you have arrived quite early."

Hearing the laughter, everyone turned their heads around to take a look. When they saw a white haired old man wearing a simple linen garment, everyone was so shocked that they paled. In their hearts, they asked just what wind had blown over today. Even this old demon had come running about today...

The person who came was naturally Jia Lao, whom Xiao Yan had met last night. The Little Princess also followed closely behind. Today, she was wearing a pale-green alchemist robe that was clearly specially tailored. Her spacious sleeves, had bright silk pulled around them to form a lotus shape. This gave her an elegance that came from nowhere. However, Xiao Yan who clearly knew her character, understood that this young lady, who appeared quiet on the surface, was actually a quirky person.

As his gaze swept past the Little Princess, Xiao Yan discovered that beside her, there was a tall lady wearing a luxurious and brilliant dress. This lady's face was similar to the Little Princess but it had an iciness that was not much different from Xue Mei. Moreover, under this iciness, there was actually a majestic and imposing manner that was an edification of the imperial family.

Compared to the cute looking and small sized Little Princess, there was an iciness and matured aura seeping out from all over this lady. As her pretty eyes moved, a temptation naturally appeared.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept passed the two ladies and finally landed on Jia Lao. He bowed and greeted with a smile, "Jia Lao is early too."

Jia Lao smiled and stepped forward. He eyed Hai Bo Dong and Fa Ma before laughing loudly, "I didn't expect that the three of us still had the chance to gather. It really is fate."

"We do indeed have some affinity..." Fa Ma softly smiled and said, "Old Demon, I didn't think that you would actually come to watch the Grand Meeting. I recall that you don't really like this kind of competition."

"I have stayed back for so many decades. It is also good to occasionally come out and take a look..." Jia Lao smiled and turned his head toward Xiao Yan. After which, he pointed at the matured and icy lady behind him and said, "Little Fellow, I think that you already know Yue-er. This is Yue-er's elder sister, Yao Ye. The security and order of the Grand Meeting as well as the fifty thousand soldiers around the Meeting are all under her control."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan felt a shock in his heart. He did not expect that this icy lady in front of him would actually possess such ability. Fifty thousand soldiers. If it was left to him, he would likely make a mess of the situation. However, the orderly and disciplined manner of the soldiers at the front gate just now clearly showed that this woman could easily command them.

"Yao Ye, this is young friend Yan Xiao whom I have mentioned to you. His ability is extraordinary. He is likely the competitor with the most ability to snatch the champion position this time around." Jia Lao pointed at Xiao Yan and smiled as he said to the cold woman behind.

Hearing Jia Lao's evaluation, the Little Princess by the side tooted, secretly muttering something. It was likely that she was not satisfied by these words of Jia Lao.

"Nice to meet you, Mister Yan Xiao."

The pretty eyes of the icy woman stared at Xiao Yan. She gracefully and naturally extended her hand and smiled. The instant she smiled caused some of the descendants of the noble clans around the VIP seats to become absent minded. It was usually very difficult for them to see the usually cold Elder Princess treating people in such a manner.

“Nice to meet you, Princess Yao Ye...” The attitude of the other party was such that Xiao Yan could find no fault with. He smiled and extended his hand and gently held that soft and seemingly boneless hand. He secretly admired in his heart, but on the surface, he simply let go the moment he made contact. He did not let the other party feel any inappropriateness.

“Hopefully, Mister Yan Xiao is able to obtain a satisfactory result during the competition. When that time comes, Yao Ye will personally hold a banquet to celebrate the accomplishments, I hope that Mister Yan Xiao will not refuse.” Yao Ye withdrew her hand and smiled as she said.

“This woman... her methods of roping people over are really quite acute... she will likely be someone extremely great in the future...” Xiao Yan smiled and nodded as his heart felt a little astonished. Even someone of his mental strength, his guard against her had diminished greatly with just a few sentences from Yao Ye during the time that they had made their initial contact.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had nodded, Yao Ye stepped back behind Jia Lao with satisfaction. With her character, she would not have lowered herself and befriended Xiao Yan in such a manner had her great-grandfather not given this young man such a high evaluation.

“Although, if he really possesses the potential that great-grandfather described, then it is worthwhile for me to lower myself to befriend him...” The pretty eyes swept across Xiao Yan’s face, which had not displayed much fluster since the beginning. Yao Ye was quite satisfied with his mental strength. It was extremely rare to be able to maintain such calm in front of the upper echelons of the empire and strong people at the peak level. At the very least, those descendants of the noble clans behind her had shrunk back and dared not approach her because of her status.

After conversing a little with Xiao Yan, Yao Ye bowed and greeted Fa Ma, Hai Bo Dong, and a few others. Her perfect etiquette was difficult for someone to find fault with; even someone like Hai Bo Dong had adopted a less cold expression.

Once the group had greeted each other, they sat down in the front row of the VIP seat. Whether it was intentional or otherwise, Princess Yao Ye ended up sitting beside Xiao Yan. The faint female body fragrance drifted from the side, causing him to become a little distracted.

As the sun in the sky moved, the number of people in the VIP seats also increased. These people were mostly people who possessed some strength in the capital or their families. The audience seats opposite them had long been overly packed. The shouting aggregated into a torrent that shot to the horizon.

Xiao Yan sat quietly in a seat with his eyes closed. A long while later, he suddenly sensed some movement in the seats around him. Only then, did he frown and turn his head around to see the source of the commotion.

The line-up that was entering the VIP section was quite large. The empire's three large clans arrived together. This kind of line-up was likely something that no strength within the Jia Ma Empire dared to look down on. A greater reason for causing such a commotion, however, was Nalan Yanran and Ya Fei who were walking in the middle. The two women had different dispositions, but they were similarly extremely beautiful. When the two of them walked together, it naturally attracted many eyes. No wonder the children of the noble clans behind were so excited...

The group of people moved along the walkway until they came to the position right at the front before greeting people they were familiar with.

Borrowing the time that they were greeting each other, Xiao Yan's gaze swept across an unknown old man who was walking with Nalan Jie and Primer Tengshan. Closely following behind this old man was Mu Zhan. Hearing the manner the two addressed each other, Xiao Yan had also figure out this old man's identity. Mu Chen from the Mu clan, another Dou Wang...

After greeting the elders, Ya Fei quietly slipped to Xiao Yan's side and sat down. With a smile as pretty as a flower, she said, "Yan Xiao di-di. You must get a good result this time around. There are countless people watching..."

"With Mister Yan Xiao's ability, his result this time around would naturally not be poor. Obtaining the top three should be something that is easily done." Nalan Yanran came over to this side without anyone knowing when and smiled as she said.

Yao Ye, who was seated beside Xiao Yan, saw Ya Fei and Nalan Yanran, these two beauties whose appearance did not lose to her, gathered around Xiao Yan. She was naturally extremely clear of the identities of these two ladies. An astonishment flashed in her pretty eyes as she quietly said in her heart, "This Yan Xiao may have an ordinary appearance, but it is really unexpected that he is so attractive to ladies... looks like great-grandfather was telling the truth. This Yan Xiao is definitely an attractive person with great potential. Otherwise with Ya Fei's intelligence and Nalan Yanran's aloofness, they would definitely not converse with him in such a manner.

The three great beauties were all crowded around Xiao Yan's side. This undoubtedly caused some of the gazes on the VIP seats to become heated. Some of the young people who possessed some imagination regarding the three ladies were clenching their teeth and staring intently at Xiao Yan. That manner of theirs was as though Xiao Yan was their enemy who had murdered their father.

Xiao Yan sighed and rubbed his head. The waves of fragrances shrouding the tip of his nose caused Xiao Yan to have an intention to laugh bitterly. The numerous heated gazes behind him resulted in his back feeling pricked. Even he himself did not understand why these three women would crowd around him. Was it that silly comparison mentality of women?

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly in his heart. He was like an old monk in meditation as he sat in an extremely straight manner, waiting for the time for the Grand Meeting to begin. In an instant, he suddenly frowned and turned his head around, only to coincidentally see Liu Ling, who was

seated in the row behind, staring at him icily. His manner was like a poisonous snake ready to bite.

Seeing that Xiao Yan had discovered his gaze, or perhaps it was because the Grand Meeting was about to begin, Liu Ling did not bother to disguise his thoughts. The corner of his mouth lifted into a cold smile. His hand was held horizontally and his middle finger pointed to the sky. His mouth squirmed, "I want to let you suffer a crushing defeat in front of Nalan Yanran!"

Xiao Yan smiled gently. He moved his lips a little and immediately turned his head around.

Liu Ling watched Xiao Yan's back in a dark and cold manner. He slowly let out a breath. A moment ago, he had clearly understood Xiao Yan's lips movement.

"Let's see..."

.....

As time gradually flowed, the time for the start of the Grand Meeting slowly arrived under tens of thousands gazes...

When a clear bell rang out on the plaza, the noisiness that had shot to the sky suddenly became quiet...

Hearing the bell ringing by his ears, Fa Ma quivered slightly and stood up. After which, he slowly walked to the very front of the VIP seats. His gaze watched the thousands of alchemists seated behind the green tables below. At this moment, over two thousand alchemists also lifted their heads and threw respectful gazes toward this old man who possessed an extremely great reputation within the Jia Ma Empire's alchemist scene.

"As the chairman of the Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Association, I pronounce that the seventh Alchemist Grand Meeting has begun!"

"Bang!"

The entire ground boiled. Their happy cries stirred the skies.

Chapter 305: First Round, Begin!

Fa Ma stood in front of the VIP seats and eyed the bustling plaza. A while later, he softly said, “Now, I would like to invite all the competitors to move to their assigned positions.”

Although the plaza was currently bustling about to the point that the ring of the bell could hardly be heard, Fa Ma’s voice managed to still sound in everyone’s ears. From this, it could be seen that this dying old man possessed extremely extraordinary strength.

Hearing Fa Ma’s words, many alchemists in the VIP seats immediately stood up. There, the alchemists were mostly groomed by or roped into some of the more powerful groups. Due to having a powerhouse to support them, the tier of these alchemists was slightly higher as a whole compared to those “free” alchemists.

The high platform was tens of meters higher than the open ground below. With such a height, these young people, many of them whose strength was merely that of a Dou Shi or perhaps even a Dou Zhe, would naturally not dare leap down. Therefore, on the walkway by the two sides of the VIP seats, there were staircases that exclusively led to the open ground below. Currently, they were successively walking down under countless gazes.

“Ke ke, Liu Ling, Little Yue Er, Yan Xiao, you should also go to your respective positions... as your results in the internal test were the most outstanding, the stations over there belong to the three of you. Those three seats will make you the focus of the crowd’s attention.” Fa Ma’s finger pointed at a place located in the middle of the open ground. That place had over ten huge green tables and not only were these green tables larger than the others, they also seemed to be elevated higher than the res. Such a special position that stood out would naturally be able to cause the people standing there to become the main attraction.

When the gazes of the three people followed the direction that Fa Ma pointed and saw the special spot, their expressions were different from

each other: Liu Ling was a little excited, on top of being surprised; Little Princess was curious and eager; while Xiao Yan was blank for a moment before he knit his eyebrows slightly together. Given Xiao Yan's character, he really did not like such a special position that placed him in the spotlight.

Fa Ma's gaze slowly drifted over the faces of the three people and finally stopped on Xiao Yan. He appeared to be able to see through what Xiao Yan thought as he gently said with a smile, "It is naturally a good thing for a young person to know how to keep a low profile. However, there are some things in this world that are made to be impossible to keep a low profile in. Since you are participating in the Grand Meeting, you must be thinking of obtaining the best result. In order to obtain the best result and be at the forefront of these two thousand plus people, you cannot escape being the focus of attention. Since you will eventually be discovered, then what is the difference of it happening now rather than later?"

"If you don't do some rash and arrogant things while you are young, you will not have fun memories to recall in the future..." Fa Ma said with a smile.

"Chairman Fa Ma is right." Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded his head. He did not continue to be entangled over this matter.

"Ke ke, alright. The few of you please proceed down..." Fa Ma smiled and said.

"The two of you, I will go first."

Liu Ling responded to Fa Ma first before laughing at Xiao Yan and Little Princess. Immediately, he pressed the ground lightly and his body charged to the edge of the high platform. He glanced at the huge open ground below. Then he leaped, diving forward and elicited countless sounds of shock from those in the VIP seats.

His body swiftly descended and just as he was about to reach the ground, two Dou Qi columns, that could be seen with the naked eye, appeared out of Liu Ling's heel. Borrowing the opposing force from the Dou Qi columns, he landed on the ground without any injury. After which, he

smiled and swiftly walked up to the middle spot of the plaza under gazes that were filled with a fiery heat.

“This fellow really likes to show off, but does he think that only he knows how to jump?”

Eyeing Liu Ling who had received attention from everyone by directly leaping down, the Little Princess smack her lips together. Her lovely body leaped forward and also shot off of the high platform. Like a falling leaf, her body gently and elegantly descended. Her beautiful posture was like that of a goddess.

“Roar, roar...” This beautiful action of the Little Princess had undoubtedly stirred the hearts of those observing more than Liu Ling’s earlier performance. Moreover, due to her tender and cute matter, it had not only caused a howl to sound from the VIP seats, but also a deafening roar to be emitted from the audience seats on the opposite side.

“Ke ke, old man Jia. I did tell you before that your agility Dou Technique ‘Flying Floc’ was more suited to women, but I never did expect that you would ever teach it to this little girl.” Eyeing the Little Princess’s body which had totally ignored gravity as she floated, Fa Ma could not help but turn around and smile as he spoke to Jia Lao.

“She had only learned a tiny bit of this agility Dou Technique. However, since she has only pursued beauty, she will easily become a target for the other party, if she were to meet an enemy.” Jia Lao shook his head. Although the words from his mouth were spoken as such, when one looked at the smile on his face, he was clearly satisfied with the skill that the Little Princess had revealed.

“Hey, Little Fellow. Why don’t you leap down as well. You cannot lose to them in this entrance parade...” Seeing Jia Lao’s slightly pleased face, Hai Bo Dong could not help but roll his eyes as he urged Xiao Yan.

“...I think I will walk down.” Sensing the countless of gazes that were gathered on him, Xiao Yan shook his head. He turned around and began walking along the walkway to head down. However, Hai Bo Dong abruptly waved his hand and an invisible force blew out, fanning Xiao Yan down,

who did not have the time to defend himself.

“Ha ha, you better not make me lose face. Go down...”

“You old bastard...” Being pushed, Xiao Yan’s palm swiftly danced around. He had just cursed when his body began wildly descending under everyone’s gazes.

The wind whistled passed Xiao Yan’s ears. Due to him being forcefully pushed off by Hai Bo Dong, he had actually ended up falling head first. Xiao Yan helplessly sighed as he heard the intense sound of the wind in his ears. Both his hands did not move as he allowed his body to fall straight down head first.

In the plaza, countless gazes were stunned as they saw that Xiao Yan still did not have any reaction despite becoming increasingly closer to the ground. Some of the more cowardly young ladies had already hurriedly shut their eyes, afraid that they would see an extremely bloody scene.

Just as countless people widened their eyes, wanting to see if this little fellow, who appeared to have some ability, would turn into a pile of meat paste on the spot, Xiao Yan, who had remained still, finally moved his hands. He aimed them at the ground and an instant later, an incomparably fierce shapeless force swarmed out, violently smashing into the hard green rock surface. Immediately, a crack line began spreading out on the surface of the rock.

Borrowing the force of the push, Xiao Yan’s sharply falling body became much slower. His body was like a spiralling ball in midair, beginning to swiftly spin. Each time the force was about to fade away, Xiao Yan’s palm would carelessly smack downward, borrowing the rising airflow created from the force to cancel out the downward force on his body, forming a perfect equilibrium. Under everyone’s shocked gazes, Xiao Yan’s body was like a helix, rotating as he moved toward the center of the plaza.

“Tsk tsk, what an exquisite airflow control. At such an age, he can actually move freely in the air without using a pair of wings. This is something that even some Dou Wang could not achieve.” Eyeing the human figure which was swiftly spiraling as he moved through the open

space, some shock surfaced involuntarily on Jia Lao's and Fa Ma's faces as they praised.

“Hei, this fellow is really unpredictable. I had originally thought that he would use the flying Dou Technique. It is really unexpected that he actually still had this type of skill hidden away as well...” Hai Bo Dong's face was similarly filled with shock. Although he knew that this method of Xiao Yan's was impractical when it came to real flying, it would however, in this current occasion, be undoubtedly flashy enough to cause many people to be shocked.

Under the stunned gazes of the few thousand competitors, Xiao Yan's body swiftly moved to the middle; the rotation of his body gradually weakened. With a gentle tap of the tip of his feet in the empty space, his body flipped in the air and rolled down like a gourd. A long while later, his body was gently bent and he landed smoothly with one foot supported on the ground. He gently patted the dust on his hands and slowly stood up, eyeing the dense mass of human heads in the audience seats, which he could see no end to.

“Clap, Clap...”

“He's too handsome!”

“Roar, great!”

A deafening clapping sound instantly sounded from the somewhat quiet audience seats. Sharp yells suddenly reverberated throughout the entire plaza. The Grand Meeting had yet to begin, but this young man had already given them an eye-opening entrance performance.

With merely just this perfect entrance performance, there was already numerous young ladies who were fascinated by this young man wearing a black alchemist robe.

On the VIP seats, Ya Fei rubbed her cheeks with her hands. Her pretty eyes stared directly at the young man standing at the most conspicuous spot, receiving the attention of everyone. Her enchanting and moving face was slightly absentminded. A splendid glint appeared in her pupils. This little fellow appeared to no longer be that immature young man...

“He really does have some ability. No wonder great-grandfather praised him so highly...” Yao Ye softly muttered as she eyed the young man who was quietly enjoying the countless cheers.

Nalan Yanran sat lazily on a soft comfortable chair. The beautiful outline that was formed under the bundle of the spacious moon-white dress caused many gazes behind her to secretly sweep over. The current her had similarly paused her gaze on Xiao Yan who was on the open ground below. Watching the latter’s indifferent manner as though he had heard nothing as he stood in the middle of the countless cheers, her pretty face could not help but become much gentler. Perhaps it was because she had stayed with her teacher, who was viewed like a god in her heart, for a long time, but Nalan Yanran had a good impression regarding this imposing presence that was similar to her teacher’s.

Mu Chen narrowed his eyes. He stared at Xiao Yan in the competition ground. A long while later, he tilted his head and said to Mu Zhan, “Is he that person who you have mentioned?”

“Yes, this fellow actual dares to be so close to Ya Fei. Yesterday, was it not for Nalan Yanran stopping me, I would have taught him a lesson!” Mu Zhan spoke evilly.

Mu Chen’s finger gently tapped on his shrivelled back of his hand. He shook his head slightly and slowly said, “In the future, don’t go and offend him. If you really like that girl Ya Fei, you can use ordinary methods to pursue her. It would be best if you do not provoke this fellow called Yan Xiao... if you really were to fight him, you may not be his match.”

“But...” Hearing this, Mu Zhan became anxious. He was about to say something when he saw Mu Chen’s face which had sunk. Mu Zhan’s head sank and he could only helplessly agree.

Xiao Yan quietly stood in front of a clean green rock table. He realized that a set of medicinal ingredients was orderly placed on the rock table and in front of those was a thin piece of paper peacefully sitting. Additionally, a jade mirror was embedded at the front of the rock table with a weak green-red light flickering in it.

As Xiao Yan conveniently picked up the thin paper and swept his gaze over it, he was somewhat stunned to realize that it was actually a medicinal formula for a tier two medicinal pill. However, the thing that caused Xiao Yan to be speechless was that only some of the medicinal ingredients and other things were carelessly written onto this medicinal formula. Its format, in no way, complied with the orthodox method of creating a medicinal formula.

As mentioned earlier, an orthodox medicinal formula required the use of Spiritual Strength to read. Only through this method could the formula relay all the necessary information that the reader needed to grasp in order to refine a medicinal pill in the shortest amount of time. The things that were recorded on this thin sheet of paper simply gave a vague refining method. All the remaining details actually completely required the reader to grasp by himself. This undoubtedly would cause the number of failures in refining this medicinal pill to be raised to a terrifying extent.

The thing that really caused Xiao Yan to be utterly speechless was the amount of medicinal ingredients placed on the rock table. The quantity was clearly only enough to allow one to refine the medicinal pill twice. In other words, it meant that each person had only one chance of failure. If the medicinal ingredients were completely exhausted and there was not a medicinal pill that had been refined, then it was clear that the person had failed... the result of failure was removal from the competition.

“It is certainly a Grand Meeting held every eight years. This kind of difficulty... it is really great.” Xiao Yan held the thin piece of paper, smiled bitterly and shook his head. He then lifted his head and glanced in all directions, only to realize that there was some bitterness on many of the alchemists’ faces. Tilting his head, he eyed the Little Princess and Liu Ling on his left and right. The both of them appeared much calmer. However, they were still both frowning slightly as they recognized some of the problems with the formula recorded on the thin paper.

Xiao Yan gently inhaled a breath of air. He could only turn his focus towards the thin piece of paper. This kind of strange examination was something that he had never tried before, therefore his heart felt a little

uneasy.

During the time that Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze, Liu Ling turned his gaze over. He saw the bitter smile on the former's face that had yet to disappear and could not help but softly give a cold laugh. He whispered, "Humph. So what if you are outstanding in refining the medicinal ingredients. I have already said that the examination during the Grand Meeting is not simply competing on that front. Next, let me see how you embarrass yourself in front of Nalan Yanran... country bumpkin..."

Having received Gu He's extremely orthodox teachings, Liu Ling had extremely great confidence in himself for this Grand Meeting. Therefore, he wanted to obtain the champion spot for the Grand Meeting. After which, he would have the qualification to pursue the goddess in his heart, Nalan Yanran...

On the enormous open ground, all the competitors were holding the thin paper with both hands. They displayed many different expressions as they read. In an instant, the entire plaza was totally silent.

The quiet atmosphere continued for nearly five minutes. A clear bell then sounded abruptly within the open ground.

Hearing the bell ring, all the competitors spontaneously placed the things in their hands down. They beckoned with their hands and instantly, thousands of cauldrons of different colors and shapes suddenly appeared on the green rock tables.

Following the ringing of the bell, Fa Ma, who had his eyes closed also opened them. He swept his gaze under him as his slow voice sounded by everyone's ears, "I think that all of you should have understood something. During this first round of the competition, all of you need to follow this incomplete medicinal formula to refine a medicinal pill that is a finished product. Each of you have two tries. If the medicinal pill is not successfully refined after two attempts, the jade mirror behind the green table will automatically display a red light. When the red light flicks on, that person will exit the competition ground..."

"On the wall opposite all of you, there is a huge hourglass. That is the

time limit for the competition. Those who still fail to refine the medicinal pill before all the sand in the hour glass falls will similarly fail.”

“Do you all understand?” Fa Ma said with a smile.

“Yes!” The sound that was projected forward from the ground below was like a muffled thunder that roared upward.

“Since it’s like this, then... the first round of the examination shall now begin!”

Fa Ma slowly lifted his palm as he smiled. He abruptly swung it down. At this moment, thousands of flames suddenly appeared in the large open ground like fireworks. The spectacular scene caused peoples’ fiery blood to boil!

Chapter 306: Soul-Stirring

Xiao Yan quietly stood in front of the rock table. He quietly pushed the crimson cauldron in front of him a little further away. The current him did not immediately summon out his flame and start the refinement like the other alchemists. Instead, he quietly held the thin paper with both hands, knit his eyebrows slightly together and studied what little information was written on it in greater detail.

Before doing anything, one must first make preparations. This logic was something that Xiao Yan clearly understood. He only had two chances. Any negligence would result in failure.

This time around, the examination required one to refine a tier two medicinal pill that was called 'Bone Growing Pill'. As the name suggests, it was a kind of medicinal pill used to cure those who were quite seriously injured. It was a medicinal pill that was of the healing category. Usually, these medicinal pills were not overly expensive. If they were placed on the market, it would likely be priced at a few hundred or a few thousand gold coins. This price appeared a little shabby compared to those medicinal pills that could raise one's Dou Qi or have other uses.

Refining the 'Bone Growing Pill' needed a total of six kinds of medicinal ingredients. Among all of the tier two medicinal pills, it was not considered to be extremely complex. However, this kind of 'Bone Growing Pill' was clearly a new kind of healing medicine specially configured by the alchemist association. Therefore, Xiao Yan still felt that the 'Bone Healing Pill' was a little foreign despite having seen quite a number of healing medicines before.

Although there were many different kinds of healing medicines that were mysterious and strange, all roads lead to Rome. The rough sequences used to refine these healing medicines were very similar. It was just that the degree of complexity was different. Moreover, this medicinal pill was not extremely troublesome. As long as one's real alchemist ability was not weak, it should be possible to successfully feel around and grasp the refining method to refine the 'Bone Growing Pill'.

Therefore, even though the medicinal formula only gave the generic things one must pay attention to, it should not be too difficult to refine it successfully if one followed one's senses...

After memorizing, in detail, all the information on the thin paper, Xiao Yan slowly closed his eyes. A moment later, he gradually opened them and sighed gently. Placing the thin piece of paper on the table, he turned his head and looked around. He realized that the Little Princess and Liu Ling had already begun to control their flame and began refining.

The flames that were being manipulated within the medicinal cauldron were all the same dark yellow color. This was a flame that was completely catalysed by using Dou Qi. However, Xiao Yan believed that this was not the bottom line of the two of them. Perhaps they were all hiding their trump cards. With their status, it was an extremely natural thing to possess trump cards.

"Regardless of the character of these two people, their actual ability is indeed very great..." Xiao Yan sighed gently in his heart. No matter how he counted, he had only practiced for three years ever since he came into contact with alchemy. On certain aspects, Xiao Yan naturally could not catch up with Little Princess and Liu Ling, who had been groomed by their teachers since youth. After all, no matter how talented one is, it was impossible to catch up with over a decade of achievements of other people in such a short time.

It was also due to this reason that Xiao Yan did not feel any blow even though the Little Princess had already achieved a tier three alchemist level at such an age. The other party's talent was quite good. Adding this to being in contact with refining skills for many years, it was not unexpected that she had such achievements.

At this moment, over ten minutes since the start of the examination had elapsed. During this short ten minutes, there was already red lights flickering off and on within this huge open ground. After the red light flickered, those alchemists who had failed could only choose to leave with embarrassed red faces. For these alchemists who liked to follow the rules to refine medicinal pill, this kind of examination which took a slanted

path was impossible for them...

Xiao Yan indifferently glanced at an alchemist in front of him who had their head lowered as he walked out of the open ground with a face on the verge of crying, Xiao Yan shook his head. He ignored him and turned his attention completely to the refining process that was about to begin.

Xiao Yan placed the dark red cauldron properly in front of him and rubbed his hands together. He flipped his finger and a purple colored Danwan appeared between his fingers.

TL: Recall – Danwan – is a pill like thing but does not have any medicinal properties. It can even be harmful upon consumption

Flicking his finger slightly, Xiao Yan directly shot the Danwan into his mouth. He slowly chewed. A moment later, he widened his mouth and a cluster of purple flame was spat out. It was immediately held in Xiao Yan's palm.

“Wow. Purple colored flame?” Due to Xiao Yan being at a spot that attracted the most attention and adding the special appearance from before, there were countless of people from both the VIP seats and the audience seats who were observing all of Xiao Yan's movements during the entire time. Seeing the bright purple flame that he had created, waves of exclamation immediately sounded.

Although the large open ground did not lack strange and unique colored flames, the strange method where Xiao Yan used his mouth to spit out the flame pulled many gazes over.

“Purple colored flame?” Eyeing the cluster of purple colored flame hovering above Xiao Yan's palm, Fa Ma was slightly surprised. Immediately, he laughed softly, “This little fellow really does have some foundation.”

Hearing this, Hai Bo Dong by the side smack his lips. After living together with Xiao Yan for so long, he knew this fellow's bottom line only too clearly. This kind of purple colored flame was merely the weakest flame among the flames that he could control. The other dark and cold white colored flame as well as the ethereal green colored flame were the

terrifying 'Heavenly Flames' that even Hai Bo Dong feared.

The purple colored flame danced around lively on Xiao Yan palm like a fairy. A moment later, Xiao Yan waved his palm gently. The purple flame was directly shot into the fire outlet. Immediately, the turbulent Purple Flame soared and burned within the medicinal cauldron. The temperature of the icy cold cauldron was swiftly raised...

When the temperature within the medicinal cauldron was raised to a certain stage, Xiao Yan placed his palm at the fire outlet. He slowly closed his eyes and his Spiritual Strength was extended out, gradually controlling the Purple Flame that was rising.

Due to his ability to control the Purple Flame being far less precise than the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', Xiao Yan could only use his hand to touch the medicinal cauldron in order to accurately control the Purple Flame. If he controlled it away his hands away like the Green Flame, it was likely that his already high failure rate would soar... Xiao Yan really did not dare to take such a risk on this examination which only had two chances.

Under the control of Xiao Yan Spiritual Strength, the purple colored flame suppressed its temperature extremely obediently. It did not pose the slightest resistance. After this continued for some time, Xiao Yan beckoned with his palm. A medicinal ingredient on the rock table was sucked into his hand. He gently molded it and then threw it into the medicinal cauldron. Immediately, the Purple flame tumbled and rolled over, swiftly wrapping around it...

Xiao Yan closed his eyes and frowned slightly. He used his Spiritual Perception to slowly refine the medicinal ingredients. In order to refine the medicinal pill, the medicinal ingredients must be refined to a certain degree. Sometimes, if the purity was a little higher or lower, it could result in the refining process failing. It was also for this reason that an orthodox medicinal formula appeared to be extremely important. This was because on most of the orthodox medicinal formulas, there would be a detailed record of the degree of purity each medicinal ingredient needed to be refined to.

Unfortunately, Xiao Yan currently did not have that precise medicinal formula. Everything would have to rely on him using his Spiritual Perception to slowly investigate.

A low grade medicinal ingredients had in total consumed over ten minutes of Xiao Yan's time before it gradually achieved an extent that he thought was right. At this moment, he then carefully placed the second type of medicinal ingredient into the medicinal cauldron.

Using the brief instance when he threw in the medicinal ingredients, Xiao Yan glanced at his two sides. He realized that the Little Princess and Liu Ling may have appeared to have similarly serious faces, their movements did not show the slightest sign of being flustered. Their faces also did not display any emotion that showed that they were at a loss. It appeared the refining process was entirely within their control.

“Bang!”

Just as Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze, a cauldron on a rock table not far away where the flames were raging could not suppress the increasingly high temperature. It suddenly exploded. Following the explosion of the cauldron, the medicinal pill that was being refined within it had also announced its end. Therefore, the merciless red light in the mirror shone in an eye-piercing manner.

That alchemist's hair was burned until it was charred black. His face had also completely changed as he stood there foolishly watching the flickering red light. A long while later, he finally cursed out loud as he descended from the platform. He clenched his teeth and walked out of the open ground under countless gazes. As he walked passed Xiao Yan's front, the latter was somewhat surprised to realize that this failure was actually a tier three alchemist from another country...

“What a pitiful fellow...” Xiao Yan laughed somewhat gloatingly in his heart. He then threw aside this small interlude and continued to place the medicinal ingredients carefully into the medicinal cauldron one at a time. After which, he patiently probed for the most optimum purity that they should be refined to. With the earlier lesson from that failure, the current

Xiao Yan had undoubtedly become more careful.

.....

As time slowly flowed by, red lights were repeatedly flashed on the huge open ground. One by one, green faced or crimson faced alchemists would helplessly leave the platform and under the countless of regretful eyes from the viewing platform, moodily left this place which caused them sadness and anger.

While the examination this time around possessed quite great difficulty, it must be said that many of those who had participated in the Grand Meeting were people who possessed great skills. Other than those competitors who had failed due to many different reasons, there was still nearly around half the alchemists who were quietly probing the degree of purity of the medicinal ingredients just like Xiao Yan.

After nearly half of the sand within that huge hourglass on the wall had fell, Xiao Yan's probing of the degree of purity of the ingredients had finally completed. Other than having accidentally incinerated two medicinal ingredients during the refinement process, Xiao Yan's final result could be considered to be quite good.

TL: Im guessing that although there are only two portions, there is room for error so even though XY burned to ingredients, there is still enough for a second try.

The next thing was to begin merging the different kinds of medicinal ingredients, turning them into the real 'Bone Growing Pill'.

This step would be even more troublesome than the refining earlier. During this period, if Xiao Yan were to even slightly lose his concentration, he would have to start from scratch.

Being extremely clear of the importance of this step, Xiao Yan had already made preparations, transforming his Dou Qi into a film which covered his ears, shielding him from the noise of the outside world.

As the noise from the outside world faded, Xiao Yan's mind gradually began still. He let out a mouthful of coarse air, closed his eyes once again

and swiftly picked up a jade bottle on the rock table. Inside it was the essence of a medicinal ingredient that Xiao Yan had refined earlier. He held the jade bottle, paused for a moment, before pouring it all into the medicinal cauldron. Immediately following that, he swiftly threw the other two bottles of medicinal ingredients that he had refined into the medicinal cauldron...

Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength cautiously controlled the Purple Flame and slowly grilled those medicinal ingredient powders, that would not mix. Their special response when they merged slightly together was passed through the Spiritual Strength within the flame and swiftly entered Xiao Yan's mind. After which, he would be able to use the information to distinguish if the merging method was correct.

This kind of feedback analysis was an analyzing job that greatly exhaust Spiritual Strength. Fortunately, Xiao Yan currently only needed to analyze a tier two medicinal formula. If it was tier three or even tier four, it was likely that even him, who was around a tier three alchemist would not be able to analyze it. Even if it was a tier four or tier five alchemist, it would basically be impossible for them to analyze. After all, if analyzing a medicinal formula was such a simple thing, then medicinal formulas would not be so valuable...

“Bang...”

With a slight frown, Xiao Yan carefully sensed the merger of medicinal ingredients. At one instance, his expression suddenly changed slightly. The Purple Flame writhed wildly within the medicinal cauldron and a soft muffled sound was emitted from the medicinal ingredient. The three kinds of medicinal ingredients that were halfway done merging had instantly turned into dark black ashes. After the ingredients turned into ashes, the Purple Flame rising in the medicinal cauldron was also quietly extinguished...

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes as he watched the medicinal ingredients that had turned into ashes. He opened his mouth slightly and patted his head in annoyance. Due to his mind being too focused, he had actually forgotten that the Purple Flame did not have any continuous support.

Therefore, it could at most burn for an hour.

The muffled bang within the medicinal cauldron was not small. Hence, not long after it sounded, the Little Princess and Liu Ling not far from him turned their gazes over. When they saw that Xiao Yan's medicinal cauldron did not have any flame, they were all surprised. The former was a little better, simply revealing a helpless expression. The latter's mouth was lifted as he gloated, giving a feeling of being asked to be beaten.

On the high platform, Fa Ma and the others were momentarily blank as they eyed Xiao Yan whose flame had suddenly been extinguished. However, they did not say anything and simply quietly waited. Although the flame was extinguished and the time allocated for the examination was about to be up, Xiao Yan should have one portion of medicinal ingredients on his table. Therefore, he still had a chance. Of course... the precondition was that he must hurry up. This was because there was only one third of the sand in the huge hourglass remaining.

.....

Xiao Yan gently inhaled a breath of somewhat hot air. He eyed those dark black ashes within the medicinal ingredients and closed his eyes. A moment later, he slowly opened them and suddenly smiled faintly. Although he had failed this time around, he had grasped an approximation of the method needed to refine this 'Bone Growing Pill'. The next thing he needed to do was to gracefully and easily refine it...

Xiao Yan took out another purple colored pill and placed it into his mouth. He slowly chewed it. Using this short amount of them, he swept his gaze around him and discovered that within the cauldrons in front Little Princess and Liu Ling, an initial pill like shape thing was already beginning to be agglomerated. Clearly, they should be able to form pills not long later...

"Their speed is not bad... they really do have some clout."

Xiao Yan lifted his eyebrows slightly. He opened his mouth and once again spat out the purple colored flame. After which, he poured it into the medicinal cauldron. His hands were stilled before they abruptly began to

move a moment later. As his hands danced, he poured all six small jade bottles placed in front of him into the medicinal cauldron...

“He actually wants to merge all six medicinal ingredients together? In this way, he would be able to save a lot of time, but if his Spiritual Strength is not strong enough and can not control it properly, it would be basically seeking death...” As they watched the action of Xiao Yan below, Fa Ma, Ao Tuo, and the group of very experienced people softly muttered.

Xiao Yan’s gaze stared at the writhing flame within the cauldron. His Spiritual Strength controlled the Purple Flame and separated all the medicinal ingredients within it. After which, he slowly moved them closer as he grilled them. As they grew closer, they finally began to gradually show a tendency to merge...

The sand within the enormous hourglass swiftly scattered down.

“Clang!”

Finally, a clear sound of the cauldron being tapped sounded in the open ground.

Liu Ling was first to heavily tap on the cauldron. The cover on the cauldron shot up and a round medicinal pill came flying out. After which, he leaped and grabbed it in his hand. The pride on his face was difficult to hide.

“Clang!” With another clear sound, the Little Princess beckoned with her delicate hand and a medicinal pill shot out from within the medicinal cauldron.

“Clang, clang, clang...”

Following the two continuous sounds, it appeared that a chain reaction had occurred within the large open ground. Numerous cauldron covers were shot up and a few hundred, different shaped medicinal pills shot out from medicinal cauldrons, flying to the sky. After which, their owners excitedly caught them with their hands.

“Time is almost up...” Ao Tuo stared intently at Xiao Yan in the center spot who still had his eyes closed. He then looked at the sand in the

hourglass that had almost completely fell. His hand abruptly tightened. Each time this fellow took a test, he would keep people on tenterhooks.

Within the large open ground, countless of gazes were slowly thrown to the middle spot where Xiao Yan was at. They then eyed the sand in the hourglass that was splashing down. All of these people wanted to know if this young person who stood in the spot that attracted the most attention would be able to complete the test in this round at the last minute.

The very little sand within the hourglass quietly descended. The moment the last piece of sand came rolling down, a pitiful sounding hiss came from the audience seats and the VIP seats.

“Clang...”

The young man who had his eyes tightly closed suddenly opened them. His palm patted the cauldron and its cover flew up. A round medicinal pill flew out at the very last moment, in a dazzling manner that caused people’s eyes to become blurred...

Chapter 307: Test, The Mysterious Man in The Gray Robe

Xiao Yan's face was calm as he looked at the pill shooting out of the cauldron. His palm released a suction force which pulled it into his palm.

The instant the pill entered his hand, the little remaining sand finally fell down. On the big open ground, hundreds of red lights, behind those alchemists who had still not finished refining the pill, lit up.

Disappointedly looking at the flashing red light, those alchemists smiled bitterly and took back their respective cauldrons, their faces were dispirited as they exited the square.

Standing behind the green table, Xiao Yan looked at the contestants withdraw one after another. His eyes looked around, somewhat startled at his discovery. This was just the first round of assessments and yet unexpectedly one-third of the participants had been eliminated. He let out a sigh as he thought about the strictness and the harshness of the Grand Meeting.

Playing with the pill in his hand, Xiao Yan turned his head to the nearby Liu Ling. This fellow was throwing a smile at the pill in his hand, his whole face full of a proud color. He looked at Xiao Yan, his pill steadily grasped in his hand, and said with a smile, "Mr. Yan Xiao, ah you truly have good luck. Unexpectedly you managed to refine the pill at the last moment.... You had the best score for the internal test, so if you failed to pass even this round, it would have been a big joke."

Shooting a look at Liu Ling's triumphant appearance, Xiao Yan faintly smiled and said, "In any case, one would be considered to have passed as long as this is refined. Whether it is finished in the first moment or the last makes no difference at all...."

"Mr. Yan Xiao seems to be deceiving himself and others. In this Grand Meeting, attended by innumerable outstanding Alchemists, refining with the fastest speed in an undeniable skill." Liu Ling laughed. He was

naturally unwilling to let Xiao Yan diminish his achievements.

“Ha-ha, perhaps...” Xiao Yan shrugged as he no longer wasted his words on Liu Ling. He turned his head toward the Little Princess and smiled. Looking up at the VIP seats, he saw Fa Ma, waiting for his turn to speak.

“Hu....”

In the VIP seats, Ao Tuo heavily exhaled. He used his sleeves to wipe off the cold sweat on his forehead. He faced Frank by the side whose face was also filled with cold sweat and said with a bitter smile, “No matter what this fellow does, he likes to keep doing it in such an extremely thrilling manner. Doesn’t he know how to think of us old fellows? We don’t have the kind of strong heart he has for these kinds of soul-stirring things.”

Frank similarly had a face with a bitter smile. Of course, on top of the bitter smile there was some relief and joy, “But fortunately, he managed to complete the test at the last moment. Otherwise, it would really be a great embarrassment if the person with the best result in the internal test actually failed to pass the first round...”

Hearing this, Ao Tuo felt the same as he nodded his head. If that had really happened, then it would really not be fun. He would have directly packed up and returned to Black Rock City...

Fa Ma stood at a spot on the front of the platform. He looked down from the top and watched the entire open ground. His gaze swept across it, eyeing the place where a third of the competitors had been eliminated. Nodding with a faint smile, Fa Ma’s hands pressed down on something imaginary. Immediately, the noisy ground began to gradually quiet down.

“Congratulations to all of you who are still standing in the plaza. You have more or less successfully passed the test for the first round; however, it has not completely ended...” Fa Ma said with a smile, “I think that everyone should also know that there are some cunning little fellows who like to create some bizarre things. Perhaps it may appear that they have successfully refined a medicinal pill that appears round on the exterior but they very well may not have even the slightest healing properties. Essentially, such creations have not even a little relationship with the

words 'medicinal pill'... Therefore, the next thing we need to do is to test the 'Bone Growing Pill' that all of you have refined and see whether it has achieved the required level stated on the medicinal formula..."

The slightly hoarse voice of Fa Ma slowly sounded in everyone's ears, "Now, can all the competitors please search for a green colored button located at the bottom left corner of your green stone table and press it."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the rock table and finally stopped at the bottom left corner which was not very noticeable. He was somewhat stunned to realize that there were a few different colored small buttons scattered there. His finger followed the instructions and stopped on the green colored button before pressing it down gently.

As the button was pressed, the bright and clean rock table suddenly trembled slightly. On its surface, a slate was slowly protruding out. Once it was raised by around half a foot, it sank slightly and finally revealed a tiny black hole.

"This is a testing machine. Place the 'Bone Growing Pill' that you have refined into it. If you have achieved the requirement, a green light will flash on the jade mirror in front of the table. If you have failed to meet the requirements, it will flash a red light: that represents failure. The result of failure is that you must exit the competition... Additionally, the brighter the green light, the closer your refined 'Bone Growing Pill's effectiveness to the real one described in the medicinal formula. On the other hand, the brighter the red light... Well, the opposite... the farther your pill is from the real 'Bone Growing Pill'. It also implies that what you have created is a Danwan that has not the slightest effect. Of course, if it can be used to satisfy hunger, it would at least have a slight use..."

Hearing the humorous joke that sounded in the air above the open ground, laughter was emitted from both the audience seats and the VIP seats. Within the open ground, however, there were quite a number of alchemists whose expressions had suddenly changed...

"Haha, alright. Everyone, begin..."

As he fondled the round medicinal pill gently with his fingers, Xiao Yan

calmly eyed the dark black colored hole of the testing machine. He did not hurriedly throw the pill in. Instead, his gaze swept around him.

At this moment, there were already some alchemists who had begun to throw their medicinal pills into the testing machine. Not long after that happened, the open plaza suddenly became very colorful. Strong and weak green and red lights interweaved as they glittered. Each represented either joy or gloominess...

“Bullsh*t testing machine...” A tier two alchemist with a dark expression angrily glared at the red glow flickering from the jade mirror. The red glow there was practically the densest among the entire open ground. Therefore, countless of stunned gazes were thrown at this gloomy-faced young man.

After smashing his fist violently at the rock table, the alchemist returned the medicinal cauldron into his storage ring and descended from the platform while cursing under the observation of countless of gazes. With a green face, he gnashed his teeth as he walked out of the open ground.

“Keep doing these messy nonsensical examinations... Will a serious medicinal pill refinement kill people? A group of old men who will not die... I used all my effort to merge those medicinal ingredients together. Yet, you actually gave me another test. You gave a medicinal formula that had not the slightest information besides the name, refine what...”

Xiao Yan eyed the tier two alchemist who had walked out of the place in front of him. When he heard the extremely angry curses from his mouth, Xiao Yan could not help but feel neither able to laugh nor cry. He did not expect that this kind of clown could actually pass through the soul-stirring examination earlier.

Following this round of the test, there were at least nearly a hundred alchemists who left the open ground with green or red faces.

“Ke ke, Mister Yan Xiao, why don’t we do it together...” Little Princess tossed the medicinal pill in her hands and suddenly spoke with a smile to Xiao Yan.

“Anything will do...” Xiao Yan indifferently shrugged his shoulders. He

eyed Liu Ling whose eyes were fixated on him. Currently the contesting scent of the other party was extremely dense...

Xiao Yan smiled. The medicinal pills of the three of them were thrown into the dark black hole of the testing machine at almost the same time.

As the three of them threw in their medicinal pills, countless of gazes were immediately thrown at this spot which was the most eye-catching. Everyone all wanted to know who among these three, who were clearly considered the seeded level competitors, could refine a medicinal pill that was better than the others.

“Bang, bang, bang...”

The jade mirror was a little quiet. An instant later, a slight muffled sound erupted and three bright colored green light pillars were abruptly shot out from the rock tables in front of the three of them. The density of any of the green colored lights was clearly much denser than any of the green lights that had appeared in the open ground before.

Among the three green lights, the left was slightly pale, the right was a little better while the middle green colored light pillar was already green like an emerald. Its color was extremely attractive.

“Wow... what a dense color.” As they eyed the emerald like light pillar, numerous shocked voices from the audience were endlessly emitted.

“Haha, Mister Yan Xiao really had a well thought out plan. Although you used the most amount of time, the effect of this medicinal pill of yours is the best. Yue-er admits defeat.” Little Princess watched the emerald light pillar in front of Xiao Yan with shocked pretty eyes. She then shook her head and sighed.

“I was merely lucky.”

Xiao Yan carelessly smiled and turned his head over. When he saw the somewhat dark expression of Liu Ling, he shrugged his shoulders as he smiled and said, “I’m sorry, Mister Liu Ling.”

The corner of Liu Ling’s mouth twitched. He inhaled deeply, turned his head over and stared intently at the jade mirror which was flashing a

green light. His heart suddenly had an impulse to smash it to pieces.

“Ke ke, Yan Xiao is indeed a notch above.” Fa Ma said with a smile as he eyed the three bright pillars of light.

“If it were not for the little fellow’s purple flame suddenly disappearing just now, I think that he would have refined the medicinal pill ahead of Liu Ling. Hee hee, I already said that this little fellow’s refining ability is not something that these children could compare with.” Hai Bo Dong proudly laughed.

Fa Ma smiled. He was about to say something when his expression suddenly changed. A soft exclamation was emitted from his mouth. His gaze swept through the huge open ground and finally paused on a remote corner. A human figure that was entirely wrapped in a gray colored long robe slowly dropped the medicinal pill in his hand into the testing machine.

“Why?” Seeing Fa Ma’s reaction, Jia Lao was stunned and he asked uncertainly.

“That fellow...” Fa Ma’s old eyes narrowed. A glint flashed within those turbid eyes. His finger gently tapped on the guardrail as he softly said, “That fellow seems a little strong...”

“Oh?” Hearing this, Hai Bo Dong and Jia Lao were a little surprised. Their gazes were instantly thrown toward the gray robed person. Immediately, they frowned and doubtfully asked, “What is it about him that you have discovered?”

“You both are not alchemists, therefore your Spiritual Perception isn’t very clear. But from what I have sensed, that fellow’s Spiritual Strength might well be much stronger than Liu Ling, Yue-er and even Yan Xiao. Among those in the open ground below, his Spiritual Strength should be the strongest. I remember that when Gu He participated in the Alchemist Grand Meeting back then, his Spiritual Strength wasn’t even as strong as this...” Fa Ma shook his head. He knit his eyebrows gently together and stared intently at the ground below. A moment later, the bright green colored light pillar abruptly shot out from the rock table in front of the

gray robed person. The intensity of the light had vaguely surpassed that green light of Xiao Yan.

The sudden appearance of the strong light had almost instantly attracted all the gazes on the open ground over. When everyone saw that the person who had created this light pillar was a gray robed person who was reduced to a remote corner, their faces could not help but be filled with surprise.

The strong green light that had suddenly appeared had also simultaneously attracted the gazes of Xiao Yan's group. When he saw the light pillar that was even denser than his own glow, Xiao Yan was momentarily at a loss. He immediately frowned slightly as he eyed that mysterious person whose body was wrapped within gray robes. He did not expect that such a strong person would actually appear at this moment. Moreover, by looking at his size and the position that he occupied, it was clear that this person was not among those that had participated in the internal test back then...

"Don't tell me he is a free alchemist?" Xiao Yan muttered softly. He pursed his lips up as his gaze stared at the gray robed person. From his perception, he felt that this mysterious gray robed person would likely be his most troublesome opponent during this Grand Meeting.

Seemingly having sensed the gaze that Xiao Yan had shot over, the gray robed person lifted his head slightly, revealing half a section of his pale tender face. Hidden behind his bamboo hat, a pair of eyes where a blue light was flickering carried a little iciness as they eyed the former indifferently.

"Who is this fellow?" After looking at the strong opponent that had suddenly appeared with stunned gazes, Little Princess and Liu Ling exchanged glances with surprised faces that were utterly perplex.

"Qie Er Si, give me his information..." At the front of the VIP seats, Fa Ma suddenly turned his head around and said in a deep voice to Qie Er Si.

TL: New character, not important though

From the moment that Fa Ma emitted the shocked sound a moment ago, Qie Er Si had sensed that something was wrong. He swiftly identified the

spot where the gray robed person was. After which, he took out a stack of documents and swiftly flipped through it. A while later, his flipping ceased and a thin paper that recorded the information appeared. The drawing on it was that mysterious gray robe man. It also had a clear up close drawing of the person. The face was that of an ice, pale-faced young man with a pair of blue colored eyes. From his appearance, he appeared to be around sixteen or seventeen years old, being strangely young...

After Qie Er Si passed the information to Fa Ma, the latter pressed his eyebrows together and carefully read through it. A moment later, his expression changed as he said, "It's an alchemist from the Chu Yun Empire?"

Strictly speaking, the Chu Yun Empire and the Jia Ma Empire were enemy countries that frequently went to war. As the Chu Yun Empire held the occupation that was the deadly enemy of the alchemist, 'Poison Masters', in high regard. This resulted in the orthodox alchemists of the Jia Ma Empire to view them poorly. Of course, the most important reason was that during each time the two countries fought, those 'Poison Masters' would utilize those underhanded methods to release poison medicine, poison powder, poison liquid in many different places. Therefore, during each large fight, the number of Jia Ma Empire's soldiers that died was a very shocking number.

Additionally, the alchemists within the Chu Yun empire did not oppose the 'Poison Masters'. Some of them even cooperated with each other. This resulted in the alchemists within the Jia Ma Empire to feel angry and disdain for these fellows who had betrayed the purpose of the alchemist world.

It was also due to this reason that Fa Ma's expression was so ugly when he saw that the mysterious gray robed person was actually from the Chu Yun Empire.

"Why is it written that he is only a tier two alchemist on this paper? From the Spiritual Strength that I sensed just now, that fellow should at least be a tier four alchemist!" Fa Ma's eyes glanced across the tier that was recorded as he said with a frown.

“A seventeen year old tier four alchemist? Chairman, do you think that is possible? Regardless of how much talent he has, alchemy skills require time and experience to accumulate.” Qie Er Si smiled bitterly and said.

“My senses should not be wrong...” Fa Ma shook his head. His gaze stared intently at that tender face. For some unknown reason, he felt that this face was somewhat strange.

“Don’t tell me that he had altered his appearance and come here? Seeing his well practiced technique when he was refining medicinal pill, it totally did not look like something a teenage youth would be able to possess.” Fa Ma softly muttered.

“If he has altered his appearance, he would naturally be unable to escape our senses.” Jia Lao smiled faintly. As he said these words, the corner of his eyes swept to the spot on the open ground where Xiao Yan was, without anyone noticing. It appeared that he seemed to have discovered Xiao Yan’s disguise. It was just that he did not reveal it for some reason.

“But that fellow has hid himself so well. During this kind of competition, we cannot just stop the Grand Meeting and lift his hat, right? That way, other people would say that our Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist Association is overbearing and rude.” Seeing the gray robed person who had covered his head very well, Fa Ma helplessly said.

“If he is unwilling to lift it up, then let us help him to do so...” Hai Bo Dong stood up, walked to Fa Ma’s side and softly said with a smile.

“You... won’t be discovered, will you?” Fa Ma expression moved slightly and he immediately asked with hesitation.

“Hee hee, although my strength has weakened a little, controlling the flow of coldness and unwittingly freeze that weak headdress until it become powder is something that I can still do...” Hai Bo Dong smiled and said. He naturally knew what kind of huge embarrassment it would be to allowed a Chu Yun Empire’s alchemist became the champion of the Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist Grand Meeting.

“This kind of thing that requires subtle control is really most suitable for Old Man Hai’s ice Dou Qi to do. My Dou Qi affinity leans more toward

being forcefully. It is suitable to split mountains and stones but now, it won't do..." Jia Lao shook his head and said.

"Alright... then I will rely on you." Fa Ma mused for a moment, nodded his head and said.

With a smile, Hai Bo Dong gradually narrowed his eyes. His shriveled hand was extended out of his sleeves and flicked slightly. Following a flick of his finger, a pale strange ripple was quietly emitted.

At the moment Hai Bo Dong secretly moved, Jia Lao and Fa Ma moved closer to him. It looked like they were discussing something, but it also coincidentally isolated the surrounding gazes.

"Looks like there is some unforeseen turn of events in the Grand Meeting..." Ya Fei's eyes looked at Hai Bo Dong's three man group a short distance away with eyes that held a deeper meaning as she softly said. With her eyesight that had been trained over so many years, she was naturally able to discover that ever since the strong green colored light appeared, Fa Ma's expression was somewhat ugly. Qie Er Si's follow-up action of flipping through the documents also proved some things.

"Yes... that mysterious gray robed man appeared to have broke the order of the Grand Meeting." Yao Ye and Nalan Yanran nodded. They were not flower vases that were put on display and did not miss those things that Ya Fei was able to discover.

"The 'Growing Bone Pill' that the gray robed person had refined appears to be even more outstanding than Yan Xiao's group... Originally I thought that only the three of them would be fighting for the champion of this Grand Meeting. It is really unexpected that such a dark horse has suddenly come running out..." Ya Fei knit her eyebrows slightly together and helplessly said in her heart.

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A faint ice flow quietly passed through the air. A long while later, it shrouded the air above the mysterious gray robed person without leaving a trace. It was like a couple of ice snakes that were invisible to the naked eyes that were quietly emitting a fog.

At the moment, the gray robed person was slowly packing up the things on the rock table. In an instant, his moving hands abruptly stiffened. The blue eyes under the gray robe suddenly shrank as his feet heavily stomped on the ground. His body shot backward.

“Humph, where can you run?” Seeing that the gray robed person appeared to have discovered the ice flow, Hai Bo Dong was somewhat astonished. He immediately laughed coldly and tightened his fist abruptly, “Break!”

“Bang!”

Following the tightening of Hai Bo Dong’s fist, the bamboo hat on the head of the gray robed person who had just moved his body abruptly turned into powder which then scattered.

When the bamboo had disappeared, the tender face that was covered under it immediately appeared in front of countless of gazes. Immediately, the audiences in both the regular and VIP seats emitted a sound of inhaling cold air. None of them had expected that this person who had obtained the most outstanding result in the first round would actually be such a tender looking youth...

The young man who possessed a pair of blue colored eyes extended his hand and touched the bamboo hat which had disappeared. A moment later, he suddenly lifted his head and shot his ice gaze toward Hai Bo Dong’s three man group at the front of the VIP seats.

“This fellow is definitely not someone simple. Not only did he discover my ice flow, but he also managed to use it to sense my direction...” Hai Bo Dong narrowed his eyes and watched that gray robed young man. He fondled his chin a little and coldly laughed, “Although I don’t know why he has such a tender youthful face, but if he is really seventeen as written on the information, I, Hai Bo Dong, don’t need to continue to come out. I can directly go and live in isolation for the rest of my life...”

Fa Ma and Jia Lao narrowed their eyes and slowly nodded.

“Looks like the Grand Meeting this time around will be quite interesting...”

Chapter 308: The Overly Simple Second Round

Although many people felt strange that the bamboo hat of the gray robe young man had suddenly disappeared, none of them suspected Hai Bo Dong. At this moment, most of the audience's eyes were basically glued to the tender face of the gray robe young man. It was likely that this young man's age was the youngest in all of the seasons of the Alchemist Grand Meeting,

The gray robe young man patted off the remnant ice fragment on his shoulders. He then lifted his head to look at Hai Bo Dong and the others on the VIP seats, revealing a cold smile. His lips moved slightly. By relying on the shape of this mouth, Fa Ma and the others could clearly identify what he had said, "I want the champion spot for this Grand Meeting!"

"How is it? Can you see if he is disguising his appearance?" Fa Ma's finger gently tapped on the guardrail as he asked faintly.

Hai Bo Dong and Jia Lao exchanged glances and immediately shook his head slightly. In a deep voice, he said, "I can't see that he has disguised his appearance..."

"What you are telling me... is that this person is really only so young? If this is really so, then I think that he has completely explained what is called a true genius. Compared to him, the talent of Liu Ling, Yan Xiao and the others appears to have become extremely ordinary." Fa Ma said with a frown.

"Although I can't see how he disguised himself, his age is definitely not what is written in the information..." Hai Bo Dong shook his head and said, "His sensitive reaction toward danger does not appear to be something that a seventeen year old young man possesses. Instead, it seemed like that of a warrior who has been in the battlefield for a long time. Moreover, he was able to hide his ability and reveal it only now. This is sufficient to see that his mental strength is extraordinary. I really have difficulty imagining that a seventeen year old young man is able to do all

these things so perfectly.”

“In this world, there are other methods besides changing one’s appearance to turn oneself into such a manner... You, as an alchemist, should be even more clear of this than me. Some special medicinal ingredients or medicinal pills... have this kind of strange effect.” Jia Lao said in a low voice.

“There are indeed some unique and rare medicinal pills that can change a person’s exterior into that of a young person. But those medicinal pills are all extremely rare things and they are extremely difficult to refine... However, if anyone really obtained one, it would be likely that no one would be able to distinguish him unless he opened his mouth to admit his age...” Fa Ma nodded his head and voiced his thoughts.

“If any old fellows were to obtain a medicinal pill that could change his appearance back into a young man, won’t he be able to deceive everyone and participate in this Grand Meeting? When that time comes... Who among the younger generation would be able to contend with him? In this way, this Grand Meeting of yours still has some loopholes.” Hai Bo Dong frowned and said.

“Do you really think that those kind of medicinal pills are so easy to refine? Moreover, who among the older generation would abandon their face and do such a thing. If he were accidentally exposed, won’t he be utterly embarrassed?” Fa Ma helplessly said.

“Yes, there is one below... I am now certain that under this tender outer appearance, there is definitely an old soul.” Hai Bo Dong spread out his hand and lifted his chin at the gray robed young man.

“What use is there if you can’t be certain? We cannot just simply base everything on a couple words of yours and forcefully expel him in front of so many people, can we? Since our Alchemist Grand Meeting is known to be opened to any alchemist, then it naturally includes the alchemists from Chu Yun Empire...” Fa Ma smiled bitterly and said.

“Then what do you plan to do now? If you let a person from the Chu Yun Empire obtain the champion position, your association’s reputation

will end up receiving quite a big blow.” Jia Lao knit his eyebrows together and said.

“What else can we do? We can only choose to continue conducting the grand meeting. If he were to fumble and accidentally fail, it would save us those thoughts. Moreover... Yan Xiao and those little fellows aren't ordinary people. What if they beat that old fellow by chance?” Fa Ma spread his hands and said.

From the looks of the situation, it seems a little difficult.” Jia Lao shook his head and said.

“That may not be certain...” Hai Bo Dong suddenly parted his mouth and smiled. His gaze swept to Xiao Yan in the open ground and smiled as he said, “There might really be some surprise...”

“Hopefully.”

Fa Ma sighed. Although he spoke in such a manner, his heart did not feel so certain. Yan Xiao may be considered among the best of the younger generation, but that mysterious gray robed young man clearly did not belong to the level of a young person.

“Let's wait and see. If it is really not possible... we can wait until the examination is over and find a chance to do... to that fellow.” Hai Bo Dong patted Fa Ma's shoulders. He randomly waved his hand and a faint killing intent appeared on his old face.

Fa Ma's turbid eyes narrowed. A long while later, he shook his head and sighed, “Forget it. If the matter were to be exposed, us, the Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Association, would become extremely notorious in this continent. For us, the price of that outweighs the benefits! Therefore, we cannot take this risk.”

“It's up to you.” Hai Bo Dong shrugged his shoulders and did not continue speaking. Taking a few steps back, he sat on his chair and waited for the Grand Meeting to continue.

Jia Lao also patted Fa Ma's shoulders and retreated to his seat.

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“That fellow... is actually so young?” Xiao Yan, Liu Ling and Little Princess felt a similar shock as they eyed that tender face of the gray robe young man. They did not have the judgement power of Fa Ma and the others. Therefore, when they saw the other party’s appearance, they were all shocked speechless.

“That fellow is someone from the Chu Yun Empire?” The Little Princess eyes suddenly saw the badge that was worn on the gray robe of the young man’s chest. On the badge, there was a bright sun that was slowly rising from the horizon. This image was the symbol of the Chu Yun Empire.

“Chu Yun Empire?” Hearing this name, Xiao Yan was slightly surprised. The Little Fairy Doctor that was wearing a floating white dress suddenly flashed across his mind. “She appeared to have left for the Chu Yun Empire, no?”

“He actually is a person from the Chu Yun Empire? This is going to be fun...” Liu Ling was similarly shocked as he immediately muttered. As the disciple of Pill-King Gu He, he naturally clearly knew the grudge between the Jia Ma Empire and the Chu Yun Empire.

“We must not let him be the champion!” Liu Ling eyed Xiao Yan and the Little Princess as he said in low voice.

Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders in an unconcerned manner. As no one had poured any enmity thoughts against the Chu Yun Empire into him, he did not have too much of a conflict or enmity with the Chu Yun Empire. The Little Princess, who was a member of the imperial family, nodded her head seriously.

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On the front stage of the VIP seats, Fa Ma slowly exhaled. His turbid eyes carried some coldness as he stared at the gray robe young man in the open ground below. A long while later, a calm voice once again sounded in the plaza.

“Alright, since everyone has completed the test, let us start the second round of the examination... Move your fingers and press the red colored small button on the bottom left of the rock table.”

Hearing the voice by the side of his ear, Xiao Yan immediately threw the matter regarding the gray robe young man to the back of his mind. His finger touched it and then pressed the little red colored button down.

As he pressed the button, the huge green table suddenly trembled slightly. The machine that had protruded out earlier was once again withdrawn. A huge pile of neatly stacked medicinal ingredients and a medicinal formula scroll slowly appeared on the clear and sleek table surface.

“This time around, the medicinal formula is an orthodox one. This is something that our association used all of our manpower and a few months in order to create it. The examination this time around will require all of you to follow the medicinal formula to successfully refine the medicinal pill. The medicinal ingredients in front of you are sufficient enough for all of you to refine twice. In other words, all of you still only have two tries. Once the medicinal ingredients are exhausted, it represents your failure...”

“Uh?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan was at a lost. Immediately, he frowned. “Following the medicinal formula to refine the medicinal pill? This kind of examination... isn’t it a little too easy? This kind of refining by following the method step by step was clearly far easier than the first round... If the Grand Meeting was so prudent, how could they perform such an examination?”

Xiao Yan doubtfully shook his head. He picked up the medicinal formula scroll and slowly pulled it open. After which, he closed his eyes and extended his Spiritual Strength out, gradually scanning the information recorded on the medicinal formula.

As his Spiritual Strength did the scan, numerous amounts of precise information was swiftly stored in Xiao Yan’s mind. The various different things that one needed to pay attention to were also swiftly and clearly recorded in Xiao Yan’s mind. This was the advantage of an orthodox medicinal formula.

After this information was recorded in Xiao Yan’s mind, he could sense

that the Spiritual Strength on the scroll that was storing the information was swiftly disappearing.

“‘Wind Walking Pill’, tier three medicinal pill. Its effect: Able to let the person who consumes it be extremely sensitive toward the wind type natural energy for a short period of time. From this, one could use it to raise one’s movement speed.”

“It is a rather practical medicinal pill... the way the alchemist association leaves it to the contestants is really generous. This formula is something that one can forget about obtaining from the market if one did not have a hundred thousand gold coins. But they actually gave them out for free.” Xiao Yan sighed emotionally and shook his head. Xiao Yan was a little surprised by its effect of being able to increase one’s movement speed.

“According to what is written on it, one needs to merge nine different types of medicinal ingredients in order to refine the ‘Wind Walking Pill’. Although this isn’t considered a lot, it is not a small number either...” Xiao Yan’s gaze slowly swept over the nine different types of medicinal ingredients in front of him as he muttered, “This kind of medicinal formula has only reached tier three. Adding to that there is a medicinal formula. It should not be too difficult to refine it. The examination this time around... is quite easy. Don’t tell me that they currently intend to let people successfully pass it because they were a little too ruthless earlier?”

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head. He raised it and looked around him only to find that Little Princess, Liu Ling and the others had their eyebrows slightly knit together. Clearly, they felt a little surprise at the simplicity of the examination this time around.

“I don’t care what exactly is the reason. I should act first. It would naturally be good if I can successfully pass and save myself quite a bit of trouble.” Xiao Yan mumbled softly. He threw the purple colored Danwan into his mouth and sprayed the Purple Flame into the medicinal cauldron.

At a remote corner, the gray robed young man looked at the scroll on his hand indifferently. A smile of ridicule was contained at the corner of his mouth. “A cheap trick... does the Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist Association

only have this little ability?”

On the stage in front of the VIP seats, Fa Ma stood on the high ground and looked down at the entire place. He eyed Xiao Yan at the middle spot who had already raised his flame and began to refine. He frowned slightly and softly said: “Little Fellow, you must always be careful. This kind of Grand Meeting is not like a competition along the road side. If you don’t pay attention, you will end up being eliminated.”

Chapter 309: The Source of The Problem

On the huge square, most of the alchemists were joyful once they inspected the formula and immediately lit their Dou Qi flames and began preparing measures to refine the pills.

Of course, among so many alchemists, there were naturally some cautious ones who upon looking at the simple test were surprised and hesitated. But upon discovering nothing wrong, they could only helplessly shake their heads, and light their fires...

Xiao Yan firmly observed the rising purple flames in the cauldron. After the temperature of the flame had reached a sufficient temperature, he slowly began to throw in the medicinal ingredients one by one. His pupils constricted as he slowly began to refine.

Right after Xiao Yan began refining, Liu Ling and the Little Princess on his sides, slightly frowned, and also started refining. They had the orthodox formula, and with their capabilities, as long as they were careful, refining should not be too difficult. That is, unless they suffered a stroke of extremely bad luck. After all, no matter what, it was impossible to have a success rate of 100% when it came to refining.

As the refining of the medicine once again began, the noise from the two seating galleries at the sides also gradually decreased. Numerous gazes swept over the alchemists in the open square, eyeing those within the open ground with envious faces as the latter released essence like flames with the raise of their hands.

In front of the VIP seats, Fa Ma stood with his hands held together. His gaze was directly locked onto the gray robed young man at a remote spot on the open ground. Seeing that the methods the gray robed man used while refining medicine was as well versed as some of the elders within the association, he knit his eyebrows slightly. With a soft voice, he muttered, "This kind of extremely practiced skill is something that one could not possibly have without decades to train... this person is indeed very strange. But why is it that I have not heard when such a high tier

alchemist had appeared in the Chu Yun Empire? Don't tell me that he is new to the scene?"

"Let's first see if he can pass this round..." Fa Ma sighed and once again threw his gaze back toward Xiao Yan's three-man group. He softly said, "Hopefully, these three fellows can also pass... please don't be too careless."

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As the time slowly flowed by, some of the competitors within the open ground, whose abilities were quite good, had already refined all the necessary quantities of medicinal ingredients needed. After hesitating for a moment, they clenched their teeth and poured all the essence components into the medicinal cauldron, beginning the final part of the refinement.

Xiao Yan's gaze focused on the medicinal ingredients that were writhing within the Purple Flame. As he was worried about the possibility of some problems suddenly arising, his refining speed this time around was extremely slow. This resulted in him still refining carefully at a steady pace while many other competitors had already refined all the essential components of medicinal ingredients.

"It appears that there isn't any problem..." After some time, Xiao Yan eyed the pile of pale-purple that had been formed from the grilling of a medicinal ingredient with the Purple Flame. He muttered to himself, opened the cauldron cover and sucked out the pale-purple powder before storing it within a jade bottle.

Xiao Yan's gaze slowly swept across the nine jade bottles in front of him. The necessary ingredients to refine this 'Wind Walking Pill' had already been completely refined by him. Next was the last step of merging them together.

Xiao Yan slowly rubbed the warm surface of the jade bottle as he mused for a moment. Finally, he ceased hesitating. With a wave of his hand, he threw all the ingredients within the jade bottle into the medicinal cauldron. At this time however, a soft muffled sound was suddenly

emitted from a green table not far away from him. Xiao Yan raised his eyes to take a look. At that spot, an alchemist was foolishly staring at the pile of black ashes that was discharged from the medicinal cauldron. Clearly, this was a product from a failed refining attempt...

“How can it be? Didn’t I completely follow the medicinal formula? Why did I fail?” The alchemist mumbled in a soft and doubtful manner. A moment later, the him who did not have any answer could only attribute the failure this time around to his failure of controlling the flame. Therefore, he swiftly cleared out the ashes and began to throw in the last set of medicinal ingredients into the medicinal cauldron as though he had done it a thousand times before and began to proceed with the refinement.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes as he watched the alchemist’s action. His hand, which was lifting a jade bottle was slowly placed down. His gaze stared at the latter’s every action. This alchemist was someone whom Xiao Yan had seen previously at the internal test. Logically speaking, the him who possessed the ability of a tier three alchemist should not make an extremely low level mistake like improper control of the flame when refining a tier three medicinal pill. Although it was said in this manner, the true event that had appeared in front of him was that he had indeed failed in the refining...

“Something is a little off...” Xiao Yan muttered softly. He tried his best to calm himself down. When he glanced at his two sides, he realized that Little Princess and Liu Ling had already began merging the medicinal ingredients.

As more and more time passed, numerous soft muffled sounds from the medicinal cauldrons occurred one after another on the large open ground. The alchemists who failed stared at the dark black soot that came scattering out of the cauldrons with completely stunned faces. Their perplexed eyes let everyone knew that they did not appear to know where the problem came from.

The people on the audience seats began to whisper privately amongst themselves as they watched the alchemists who had suddenly become

foolish looking.

“Bang, bang...” Another two soft muffled sound was emitted by Xiao Yan’s two sides. He turned his head to take a look. Upon seeing the ugly expressions of Liu Ling and Little Princess, he slowly exhaled.

“It seems there’s something wrong.” On the VIP seats, Ya Fei softly said. As she did so, her astonished eyes watched all the alchemist on the open ground turning into fools exchanging glances with each other.

“Something is indeed wrong... Although I am not an alchemist, I also know that one’s success rate in refinement would greatly increase if one refined according to the medicinal formula. However, those below, including Liu Ling and Little Princess... all seem to have failed...” Nalan Yanran knitted her eyebrows together and said.

“This examination question... seems to have concealed a mystery.” Yao Ye’s long right leg was crossed over her left one. She watched the open ground which had a strange atmosphere and spoke.

“Bang...” Another muffled sound was suddenly transmitted from a spot a short distance in front of Xiao Yan. The tier three alchemist who had failed earlier still ended in failure during the merging portion this time around. The current him was eyeing the dark black soot spilling out from the bottom of the medicinal cauldron with a green face.

After this sound rang, a red glow suddenly lit up from the jade mirror in front of the tier three alchemist. Evidently, he had lost his last chance after consuming both portions of medicinal ingredients.

On the open ground, numerous gazes eyed this alchemist who was the first to be knocked off. Seeing his ending, some of the people who were impulsively planning to immediately refine again were frightened. They calmed down and no longer dared to carelessly waste their last portion of medicinal ingredients.

That alchemists entire body trembled as he picked up his medicinal cauldron with a green face. After which, he angrily walked out of the place while being filled with fury and incomprehension. While he was walking passed Xiao Yan, the latter could vaguely hear him muttering to himself in

an unresigned manner, “Bastard. How could I have fail again? My control over the flame was clearly very good. Why is it that they wouldn’t merge?”

Xiao Yan sent the alchemist off with his gaze. He rubbed the warm and moist jade bottle as he narrowed his eyes. A long while later, he suddenly poured the ingredients within the bottle into the medicinal cauldron. The current him needed to personally sense exactly what the reason that caused so many participants to be unable to successfully refine the medicinal pill.

Xiao Yan’s gaze stared intently at the writhing purple colored flame. In a systematic manner, he placed the ingredients contained within the nine jade bottles into the medicinal cauldron one at a time. After which, he controlled the Purple Flame and separated them. Finally, he inhaled a deep breath and began to carefully merge them...

As he had witnessed the many people before him, Xiao Yan was almost more cautious than anyone else this time around. His Spiritual Strength spewed out, covering every inch of the Purple Flame. He did his best to store all the reactions created when each type of medicinal ingredient was merged and precisely sent them to his mind.

When Xiao Yan began to raise his flame and perform the merger, some of the alchemists around him including Liu Ling and the Little Princess threw their gazes over. Under the circumstances where they did not have any other solution, they could only hope that this young man who obtained the best result in the internal test could solve this difficult problem...

Xiao Yan ignored the surrounding gazes as he put all his attention into controlling the Purple Flame. Under the grilling of the Purple Flame, the ingredients were gradually and successfully being merged one after another.

“Three-tailed Wing Leaf... successfully merged!”

“Cloud Grass... successfully merged!”

“Off-ground Fruit... successfully merged!”

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One by one, the ingredients were successfully merged without the slightest resistance under the sensitive senses of Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength.

"Thick-soil Ganoderma..." Xiao Yan's eyebrows suddenly knit slightly together. His expression suddenly and immediately changed. The flame that was rising within the medicinal cauldron writhed intensely. Instantly, a soft muffled sound was emitted from within it and some black colored soot was spilled out.

"Ah..." Hearing the muffled sound, the people around sighed in disappointment..

Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes and eyed the dark black soot on the rock table. He was silent for a moment. His finger dipped and scooped up a little of it and rubbed it with the tip of his fingers. Quick flashes of the somewhat unnatural ripple that was transmitted to him through his Spiritual Strength during the merging process earlier appeared in his mind.

After being silent for a while, Xiao Yan's rubbing hands abruptly stiffened. His gaze suddenly paused on that medicinal formula scroll on the rock table. He pursed his lips up slightly, tightened his fist and softly muttered, "Dammit... there is something wrong with the medicinal formula..."

"Heh, what a group of useless people..." On the quiet open ground, a soft, ridicule-like laughter suddenly resounded, causing everyone to stare angrily.

As his gaze followed the voice and drifted over, Xiao Yan realized that the person who emitted the voice was actually the gray robed young man at a remote corner. The current him also had a pile of black colored soot on the rock table in front of him. From the looks of it, it appeared that he had similarly failed in his first attempt.

The gray robed young man ignored those gazes that were filled with fury. The corner of his mouth contained a cold smile as he suddenly threw

the last medicinal ingredient on the table into the medicinal cauldron. The faint laughter reverberated in the open ground, “Looks like I am leading in this round. The alchemists in the Jia Ma Empire are only so-so...”

As he spoke, the gray robe young man’s speed was not reduced by the slightest. One after another, the medicinal ingredients were swiftly being refined within the flame. Seeing his manner, it appeared that he was also clear of where the source of the problem was during his previous failed attempt.

With a frown, Xiao Yan watched the gray robed young man that did not hide his wild arrogance before he suddenly smiled coldly. His calm voice similarly reverberated in the air above, “That may not be so...”

Hearing this voice, the gray robed young man’s hands abruptly paused. He raised his head and stared at Xiao Yan with icy cold blue colored eyes. The corner of his mouth twitched, giving off an extremely dense ridicule.

Ignoring the displeased gaze of the gray robed young man, Xiao Yan suddenly turned his body around. He waved his hand and the remaining medicinal ingredients were all thrown into the medicinal cauldron. Immediately, he lifted his right hand slowly. He mused for a moment, then an elegant green-colored flame suddenly appeared in front of a countless number of shocked gazes...

Chapter 310: Turning the tide, Temporary Suspension of the Grand Meeting

“Green colored flames?”

“Heavens, he actually possesses two kinds of flame?” Eyeing the green colored flame that was rising in Xiao Yan’s palm, waves of surprised noises immediately erupted from the seating stands on both sides. Although many people present were not alchemists, most of them still knew the basic knowledge that different flames could not be merged. However, Xiao Yan in front of them had appeared to use reality to break their knowledge.

Compared to the audience on the seats around them, the alchemists on the open ground undoubtedly felt an even greater shock. As an alchemist, they had an even clearer understanding on how dangerous and incredible having two types of flame appear on one’s body was compared to anyone else. It must be known that a flame was a violent and wild thing. When two violent and wild things came into contact, the heat they released would be sufficient enough to incinerate their owner into a pile of ash.

Therefore, when they saw that Xiao Yan was actually able to once again summon out a green colored flame that was even more ferocious than the Purple Flame, shock covered all of their faces.

“Green colored flame. This fellow really still possesses a trump card.” While she eyed the green colored flame on Xiao Yan’s hand, the pretty eyes of Little Princess flickered as she muttered softly.

“This should be that ‘Heavenly Flame’ which he can control, right? How unexpected. It’s actually true.” Liu Ling said with a deep voice in his heart as he slowly inhaled the air that had become somewhat hot as a result of the appearance of the green colored flame.

“That is.” On the front stage of the VIP seats, Fa Ma was stunned as he watched the green colored flame which appeared a little elegant. A long while later, he narrowed his eyes and softly said, “That is a ‘Heavenly

Flame'? This little fellow actually possessed such a thing?"

"Hee hee, didn't I tell you not to underestimate him just now. He has so many trump cards that it would stun people." Hai Bo Dong smiled and said while being extremely satisfied with Fa Ma's shocked expression.

"He's really not someone simple. At such an age, he actually possesses and has managed to tame this kind of thing that even Fa Ma and Gu He covet. He really surprises people." The appearance of the Green Flame had similarly caused Jia Lao's face to be astonished. As a Dou Huang, he was naturally very clear just what kind of terrifying force this kind of natural mysterious thing possessed. Back then, he had once fought with a strong person who possessed a 'Heavenly Flame'. Although the other party's true ability was far inferior to him, that 'Heavenly Flame' which had an infinite amount of power caused Jia Lao to suffer terribly.

"Hu." Fa Ma slowly exhaled. He turned his gaze toward the grey robed young man and smiled as he said, "It looks like there will be some difficulty if that fellow still wants to obtain the best results in this round of the examination."

"Green colored flame." Ya Fei sighed and shook her head with her teeth biting her red lips. She really could not understand just what kind of things this tender young man had experienced in this short year. Why was he able to leap forward in such a short period of time and grow to a point where even Dou Huangs could not stop marvelling at him.

"Don't tell me it's because of her?" Ya Fei tilted her head slightly, stared at Nalan Yanran by the side and muttered in her heart.

"No wonder great-grandfather attached so much importance to him. He actually possesses such a trump card that shocks people." Yao Ye's long white right leg swayed slightly. The expression on her face felt a little relieved.

Nalan Yanran watched the young man who had appeared to be the focus of attention of the entire place. The current him had undoubtedly become the only one from the Jia Ma Empire who could contend with the mysterious grey robed young man. Using his own strength to turn the tide.

This kind of pride was what a man, a hero should have. Nalan Yanran pursed her lips up and thought in this manner. After which she quietly moved slightly.

The different types of gazes in the outside world did not affect Xiao Yan in the slightest. At the moment, he was completely focused as he stared at the medicinal cauldron. The Purple Flame within the cauldron had already disappeared. Replacing it was that elegant green colored flame.

Xiao Yan's hand swiftly swept across the rock table. Different kinds of medicinal ingredients were thrown into the medicinal cauldron all at once. However, the last medicinal ingredient on the medicinal formula, the 'Thick-soil Ganoderma', was excluded from the refining. Back then, Xiao Yan had already discovered the problem in the examination this time around; he had focused on sensing the ingredient merger during the refining process, and discovered the reason. The reason why so many alchemists failed to successfully coagulate it, and form a pill was all because the medicinal ingredient called 'Thick-soil Ganoderma' was basically superfluous. It was due to this extra unnecessary medicinal ingredient that caused the fusion to finally fail!

Calling into question a part of the medicinal formula was something that required courage and boldness. Some of the traditional alchemists trusted the authenticity of the medicinal formula far too much. Therefore, no matter how they failed, they would not attribute the problem to the medicinal formula. They would only think that they had made a mistake in the control of their flame, or when refining the components. People who possessed such thinking would undoubtedly fail.

Xiao Yan did not lack courage or boldness. Therefore, he had discovered the problem with the medicinal formula. It was also due to this that he was able to hurry and compete against that mysterious grey robed person. The rest of the people, including Little Princess and even Liu Ling could only be reduced to being the audience.

On the huge open ground, there were only two spots where flames were rising. Everyone's eyes focused on the competition ground moved to and fro, watching these two spots. Xiao Yan and the grey robed young man

raced against time under the observation of these gazes as they refined the few medicinal ingredients.

Xiao Yan's hand was currently completely removed from the medicinal cauldron. Around a foot away from the medicinal cauldron, his long ten fingers began to roll and jump in an agile manner in front of him, as though they were dancing. With his control ability over the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', it was completely possible for Xiao Yan to reach the stage where he could control the temperature from a distance. If one were simply comparing who was more elegant and filled with charm, Xiao Yan would undoubtedly be superior.

"Hurry up, hurry up." As her gaze swept between both parties and observed their refining speed, the Little Princess repeatedly sent urges, within her heart, in the direction where Xiao Yan was at. As a member of the imperial family, she naturally did not wish for a person from another country to obtain the best result within the Jia Ma Empire's Grand Meeting. That would undoubtedly be giving the alchemists from the Jia Ma Empire who were participating in this Grand Meeting a hard slap.

"That fellow's refining speed is too fast. Although his flame is far more inferior than Yan Xiao's, he appears to be extremely experienced and does not appear to even lose a second in any aspect. Compared to him, Yan Xiao is very much disadvantaged in this aspect. It is fortunate that he has the help of the 'Heavenly Flame', which results in him not lagging behind. As long as he is just a little faster, he should be able to surpass the other guy." Liu Ling's gaze stared intently at every single action of the grey robed young man. He then watched Yan Xiao before frowning slightly as he spoke. Although he was rather narrow minded, he was after all a person from the Jia Ma Empire. At this instance, he clearly knew what kind of ridicule would be directed toward the Jia Ma Empire's alchemists who had participated in this competition if the grey robed young man were to obtain the best result.

Xiao Yan and the grey robed young man had undoubtedly turned into the focus of attention of everyone at this moment.

"Bang!"

A muffled sound from a hand tapping the rock table was emitted. The corner of the grey robed young man's mouth contained a cold smile as he flipped his palm. Different colored powders or viscous liquids were shot out of the cauldron and were poured into the neatly arranged jade bottles.

At the instance when the tapping sound grey robed young man struck the table sounded, Xiao Yan's palm also abruptly slammed the rock table. Following the muffled sound, a wisp of green colored flame shot out from within the cauldron. Xiao Yan waved his sleeves and the flame suddenly shot into a jade bottle in front of him. When it was about to enter the bottle, it abruptly disappeared. Clusters of different colored powders and liquids immediately came spilling downward.

After the refinement was complete, Xiao Yan borrowed the time for which the ingredients needed to cool to tilt his head toward the direction of the grey robed young man and watch him.

Sensing the gaze that Xiao Yan had shot over, the grey robed young man raised his head and gave a mocking cold smile. "Hei, you are slow. What use is that flame being good while you aren't?"

Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze in an expressionless manner. He did not reveal any emotion. After being quiet for a moment, he waved his sleeve once again. The jade bottles in front of him abruptly burst apart and the ingredients contained within them were sucked to the midair. After which, they were blown into the medicinal cauldron. The green flame suddenly rose and began the final coagulating process.

At the moment before Xiao Yan began, the grey robed young man had taken the lead and threw all the medicinal ingredients within the jade bottles into the medicinal cauldron.

The flames within the two medicinal cauldron rose and the numerous kinds of medicinal ingredients were slowly merged within the flame, waiting to finally form a pill.

"What a fierce competition that races against time." Seeing the two people whose gaps were no more than five seconds apart, Fa Ma and the others could not resist shaking their heads and sighing. Eliminating the

commotion caused by the grey robed young man, this contest between people of similar strength had undoubtedly caused the heated blood of many people in the seats at both sides to boil.

“Old Man Fa, who do you think will be the fastest to form the pill?” Hai Bo Dong smiled and asked. At this moment, he had also stood up after being attracted by the intense competition in the open ground.

“It’s difficult to say. Although Yan Xiao has the advantage of the ‘Heavenly Flame’, his experience seems to be far inferior to that strange fellow due to his age. Therefore, the two offset each other. It is really difficult to predict who will win.” Fa Ma shook his head and sighed.

“That fellow seems to be very tough.” Hearing this, Hai Bo Dong shook his head. He muttered in his heart, “But this little fellow Yan Xiao won’t really lose, will he? Even if his Spiritual Strength was seriously damaged, he was after all an alchemist grandmaster who could once refine a tier six medicinal pill. He wouldn’t decline so quickly, would he?”

On the open ground, Xiao Yan and the grey robed young man stared intently at the writhing flames within their cauldrons. The two different colored flames painted their faces with a green or yellow light respectively.

“Faster, faster. go for it, go for it.” The hands of the Little Princess twisted slightly. Her gaze repeatedly swept past the two cauldrons. Using her excellent eyesight, she was able to discover that the medicinal pill within the two medicinal cauldrons were slowly being formed.

“The medicinal pills are about to be formed.” As they sniffed the faint medicinal fragrance that was emanating from the medicinal cauldrons, Liu Ling and the others, who clearly knew what it represented, began to feel an instant tension in their minds.

At this moment, countless people’s hearts were hung in their throat.

“Yan Xiao is about to succeed.”

Fa Ma’s shrivelled palm tightly held the guardrail. He frowned and softly said, “But the other party is following closely and could surpass Yan Xiao at any time.”

Xiao Yan tightly pursed his lips. A green colored flame was dancing within his dark eyes. From the reflection of the flame, a round medicinal pill was spinning rapidly as it rotated on a different axis.

“If I continue like this, I cannot close the gap between us.” Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes. In an instant, Xiao Yan suddenly smashed his palm heavily on the medicinal cauldron. Immediately, the medicinal pill which had yet to complete the final stage of being kept warm, suddenly shot out of the cauldron along with a cluster of green flame.

“Foolhardy! Although it is the last step, how can he allow the medicinal pill to leave the cauldron in advance. Once a medicinal pill that has just been born comes into contact with the air, the contents within it that have yet to completely solidify might be dismantled!” Seeing this sudden action of Xiao Yan, the guardrail that was being held by Fa Ma abrupt cracked apart as he angrily said.

“Reckless fellow!” Seeing Xiao Yan’s action, Little Princess and Liu Ling were similarly stunned. A moment later, they could not help but shout.

Xiao Yan ignored the surrounding gazes. His feet pushed off the ground, and his body shot up. He extended his hand, and grabbed the medicinal pill that was wrapped by the green flame into his palm. The moment the medicinal pill entered his palm, an even greater incomparably ferocious green flame suddenly rose from within Xiao Yan’s palm. The medicinal pill, which had yet to finish the last step of being heated, instantly solidified.

As Xiao Yan’s body descended, his finger flicked gently. His medicinal pill turned into a ray of light as it was shot into the jade bottle. Immediately, the green colored light roused the people’s spirit as it took the lead in shining from the jade mirror in front of Xiao Yan.

“Madman.”

In a remote corner of the open ground, the expression of the grey robed young man, who originally held a cold smile, suddenly turned green. He did not expect that Xiao Yan would actually be so crazy. If the medicinal pill that had not yet solidified came into contact with the air, all his earlier

efforts would have instantly turned into nothingness. This kind of bold and crazy action was merely to get rid of the person that was competing for time with him.

With a grey face, the furious grey robed young man smashed the jade bottle in front of him into powder with one palm. A long while later, his expression was gloomy as he patted the medicinal cauldron. The medicinal pill shot out and was immediately thrown into another jade bottle. At the moment, however, a full minute had passed since Xiao Yan's success.

The silent atmosphere on the open ground that was caused by Xiao Yan's insanity persisted for a full minute before overwhelmingly joyful cries suddenly shook the entire plaza until it trembled, much like a torrent.

As he held the jade bottle, Xiao Yan slowly exhaled. He raised his head and watched the seats on both sides that had started boiling. A faint smile appeared on his calm face.

"Ha ha, little fellow, very good!" On the high platform, Fa Ma rubbed his chest and let out a long breath. Although he was very angry at Xiao Yan's earlier action, the current Xiao Yan had indeed obtained victory regardless of the process. Moreover, this victory was done by tossing his opponent far behind him. Immediately, the excited Fa Ma could not help but laugh loudly as he spoke to Xiao Yan on the open ground.

"What a crazy fellow." Ya Fei and Yao Ye exchanged glances. In addition to being relieved, they gave an endless bitter smile at the gambling like character of Xiao Yan.

"Although it was insane, it was not simply being completely rash because of his heated blood. At that moment, it was likely that he had only dared to perform such an action because he had the confidence to do so." Nalan Yanran gently said with a simple smile as she watched Xiao Yan, that calm and joyful young man, who was smiling faintly in the plaza under countless of cheers. Although this was only the second round of the examination, the great atmosphere that he had created had already far

surpassed the last round of the previous Grand Meetings.

“Mister Yan Xiao. Congratulations. But please refrain from performing such an insane act in the future. If it fails...” Little Princess cupped her hands together and spoke to Xiao Yan in an annoyed manner.

“This time around, you were indeed very outstanding. But I will also hold nothing back in the final round.” Liu Ling shrugged his shoulders. His current expression could be forcefully called somewhat friendly.

Xiao Yan smiled, but did not speak. He turned his head over and threw his gaze at the gloomy faced grey robed young man. His thumb which was lifted up was facing downward. His usual calmness and imposing manner finally revealed an arrogance that belonged to a young man.

With a green face, the grey robed young man eyed Xiao Yan’s actions. He coldly and darkly snorted as his lips wiggled, “Don’t be so pleased. In the final round, we will compete once again! At that time, I will hold nothing back!”

Facing this threat of him, Xiao Yan unconcernedly spread his hands apart. He withdrew his gaze and watched those alchemists who were still throwing their gaze at him. He hesitated a little bit before quietly picking up the remaining ‘Thick-soil Ganoderma’ on the table and carelessly threw it aside.

Seeing Xiao Yan’s action, the surrounding alchemists were at a loss. A little while later, some of them appeared to have understood what the problem was. A wild joy gradually appeared on their faces as they threw a gaze that was filled with gratitude toward Xiao Yan. After which, they hurried to use the remaining time to begin refining.

Seeing the participants who had begun rushing to refine, the corner of Xiao Yan’s eyes glanced at the sand in the hourglass on the opposite wall that was about to completely fall. He shrugged his shoulders, lowered his head and packed up the different things on his stone table. Whether they were able to successfully refine the ‘Wind Walking Pill’ at the last moment was something that he need not worry about.

As time slowly passed by, the deafening cry of joy throughout the plaza

had also gradually weakened. After this great excitement the audience finally had enough as they threw their gazes at the busy alchemists on the open ground. Besides this, the gazes of many young ladies on the gallery were sneaking glances at Xiao Yan, who had his head lowered as he randomly cleaned up the rock table in front of him. His earlier performance had already moved these young ladies' passion-filled hearts. Currently, even the ordinary face of Xiao Yan after he had changed his appearance, had suddenly become extremely handsome in their eyes.

Half an hour later, the green light of the Little Princess and Liu Ling were the first to light up. The two of them placed their medicinal pills into their bottles, exchanged glances and sighed in relief.

Behind these two people, there were also more green lights flickering one after another. However, most of the glow throughout the plaza was still red. The open ground was overly big and the alchemists who had received the clue from Xiao Yan were merely restricted to those lucky few alchemists who surrounded him. Those competitors who were outside of Xiao Yan's sight range could only stare at the ingredients on the rock table, feeling at a loss. Without knowing where the problem lay, they could only continue to forcefully refine it. By adding the 'Thick-soil Ganoderma', their refinements all failed in the end without any exceptions.

Additionally, even if one were to exclude the reason mentioned above, this 'Wind Walking Pill' was after all a tier three medicinal pill. Therefore, there was only two to three alchemists whose abilities were around tier two were luckily able to pass. Even some of the competitors who had just entered the tier three level had also failed because of their carelessness.

Under these two somewhat harsh conditions, the number of competitors in the Grand Meeting was being reduced at a swift pace. Perhaps there was not even three hundred remaining out of the original thousand plus people. Watching the situation develop, it appeared that the reduction would continue.

When the sand within the hourglass on the wall completely fell, there was actually only a little over a hundred people still remaining on the open ground. The rest of the people had already been completely expelled

during these two rounds.

The moment that Fa Ma's laughter sounded in the open ground, Xiao Yan slowly raised his head. His gaze was thrown toward the old man who was at the spot where the VIP seats were located. Sensing Xiao Yan's gaze, Fa Ma revealed a friendly smile toward the spot where Xiao Yan was at.

After the time for the examination was over, the next event was to once again conduct the test for the pills. As Xiao Yan had the help of the 'Heavenly Flame' this time around, it was natural that Xiao Yan's medicinal pill would have the most outstanding effect in this test. The second was the grey robed young man. Following behind him was the Little Princess, Liu Ling and the other tier three alchemists whose abilities were quite good.

Once the test was completed, the sky had already gradually darkened. A crescent moon slowly appeared at the edge of the sky, shining on the well lit capital.

"Everyone, we will stop here for today's Grand Meeting. All the competitors, please have a good rest for the night. Tomorrow will be the final round for our Grand Meeting. It is also the important round which decides who will be the champion. Therefore, everyone should not end up failing to appear because of various events. Otherwise, you will regret it for life." Fa Ma laughed clearly.

Hearing Fa Ma announcing that today's examination had ended, everyone in the open ground, including Xiao Yan, immediately heaved a sigh of relief. After the two rounds of examination, everyone was indeed a little tired.

As Xiao Yan stored the medicinal cauldron, he suddenly raised his head and glanced around. He noticed that after Fa Ma spoke those words, the grey robed young man packed up his things and walked out of the open ground. Before he left, he did not forget to throw an icy cold gaze at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan rubbed his forehead while faintly watching the back of the grey robed young man who was slowly walking out of the plaza. After packing

his things, he also followed the crowd of participants and squeezed out of the place.

After exiting the plaza, Xiao Yan raised his head and inhaled a breath of fresh, cool air. His tense mind become a little more relaxed. Xiao Yan lowered his head and watched those people around him who were coming out from the audience seats. He noticed some of the young ladies were staring at him with glittering eyes and shook his head with a bitter smile. When he was about to raise his leg and walk away, a sweet gentle voice was suddenly transmitted from behind him, "Congratulations, Mister Yan Xiao."

Xiao Yan turned his head over and eyed the large group of people that had just come out from the passageway behind him. At the front of the group of people was naturally Nalan Yanran, Ya Fei and Yao Ye. Behind them, Nalan Jie and the rest were conversing with a smile.

Glancing at Nalan Yanran, whose smile was like a flower, Xiao Yan shook his head and said, "I was merely lucky."

During this period of time, Nalan Yanran had already gotten used to Xiao Yan's humility. She smiled, pulled Ya Fei and Yao Ye along as she said to Xiao Yan, "Princess Yao Ye had said that she wishes to give a feast to help you, Liu Ling, and Little Princess celebrate. Are you..."

Nalan Yanran's group of three ladies could be considered to be the top beauties within the entire capital. Now that the three of them stood together, their beautiful figures set-off each other's and it could be said that they were prettier than flowers. Therefore, there were already many young people currently at the entrance to the competition ground who had shot their gazes over.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan was momentarily at a loss. He immediately smiled bitterly and shook his head, apologizing, "I'm sorry, Princess Yao Ye, I really am far too tired tonight. There is still the final round of the examination tomorrow. Therefore, I'm afraid I cannot find the time to attend the banquet. My heart appreciates Princess's intention. Good night."

Once he said those words, Xiao Yan faced Princess Yao Ye and cupped his hands together. Without waiting for her reply, he turned around and strode toward the street. After which, he squeezed into the human flow and disappeared in front of the shocked gazes of the women he had just rejected.

Chapter 311: Surreptitious Black Robed Man

Moving along the street, Xiao Yan walked straight to the inn where he was staying. The surrounding judging and worshipful eyes caused him to have a slight headache. He could not help but increase his pace, as he passed through a few streets and entered the inn. After which, he proceeded to his own room.

Xiao Yan pushed open the door, entered and closed it properly. He leaned against the door and exhaled a long breath rubbing his forehead. His face was somewhat tired. Two rounds of examination may not seem like much, but the trick that was hidden behind it troubled Xiao Yan greatly. Adding to this, the need to fight with the gray robed young man in terms of speed during the last round only increased his tiredness. Controlling the 'Heavenly Flame' was originally a precise job and speeding up the process further exhausted one's spirit.

Xiao Yan shook his head and walked away from the door, further into the room. He splashed some icy water on his face to allow himself to be much more awake. After which, he walked into the inner hall and sat cross-legged on the bed. Forcing himself to resist the impulse to simply sleep, Xiao Yan closed his eyes and formed the seal for training. He did his best to calm his breath and slowly entered the training mode.

After these years of training, Xiao Yan was already clear that he was able to obtain a greater effect with less effort when he trained in a tired state. This kind of training was not very secret, but if one wanted to become a strong person, one needed to accumulate strength over time regardless of how extraordinary one's talent was. Yao Lao had said one could only rise rapidly after one accumulated strength for a long time. This was the true path to becoming strong. Xiao Yan also deeply felt the same.

As Xiao Yan gradually entered his training mode, his slightly rising and falling chest also quietly became calm. A long while later, there was finally a tiny rise and fall. The surroundings slightly fluctuated. Numerous energy

flows, visible to the naked eye, followed Xiao Yan's breathing and poured into his body. Finally, they underwent refinement, turning into pure energy that invaded the veins, bones, and cells within his body.

Under the invasion of the energy, Xiao Yan could clearly sense his mental fatigue being withdrawn like the tide.

After the training continued for nearly two hours, Xiao Yan, who was seated on the bed like a wooden pillar suddenly shook his finger. His eyes slowly opened and a glint flashed across those black pupils.

Xiao Yan opened his mouth and a somewhat black turbid air was spat out. It carried a faint pungent smell.

Xiao Yan twisted his neck, lowered his head, and watched the middle finger on his left hand which was faintly black. His eyebrows narrowed slightly as he softly said, "This damn thing. it's just like the maggot within a tarsal bone. I wonder if I have gained or lost from removing the poison."

Although Xiao Yan had the 'Heavenly Flame' to protect him, he could not just totally ignore this poison, which was almost something that could instantly be fatal to a person if it was present in one's body, could he?

"Ah, I can only wait until Teacher wakes up. Perhaps only then will there be a solution to resolve this thing." Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and shook his head. His head landed onto the warm bed as he muttered, "Once the Grand Meeting is over tomorrow, I will perform the last poison removing session for Nalan Jie. I think that he should be able to recover. When that time comes..."

"When that time comes, it would be the time that the conditions set by Three Year Agreement are met." Xiao Yan pursed his lips. He suddenly sighed softly. It had been three years. That spoiled and rude girl back then had already changed, becoming much more mature.

In the past, Xiao Yan had originally thought that when he saw Nalan Yanran once again, he would definitely be so furious that he would have difficulty hiding his emotions. However, during their meeting this time around, perhaps as a result of him currently using the identity Yan Xiao, he found that he was cool almost to the point of never having seen her.

During this period of time, he was like a stranger, coldly observing her every action and words that she spoke.

The three years had similarly caused the tender youth back then to become more matured and staid. The whole farce of canceling the engagement at the Xiao clan back then was indeed very comical when as he recalled it now. It was very funny, but he no longer possessed the anger he did back then.

Back then, it was likely that the youth had that kind of intense reaction because his heart was extremely sensitive from being under the name of a useless person. He was forced to suffer ridicule and supercilious looks from within the clan and Nalan Yanran forcefully ending the engagement coincidentally gave a violent stab to that weak and sensitive heart of his. Being trampled on by such great force, the youth who could no longer endure finally blew up. It was this reason that caused the event three years ago to happen.

At the very least, when Xiao Yan thought about it now, if he were still sailing along with his talent back then and did not endure the setback of being a useless person, it was likely that he would not feel much anger when Nalan Yanran came to end the engagement back then.

However, Xiao Yan was also certain about one thing. If he did not have the experience of being a useless person back then and had Nalan Yanran not come to end the engagement, he would definitely not be able to reach the place he was currently at, where countless of people looked at him with admiration, before he was even twenty years old.

Thinking about those matters that had changed the direction of his future, Xiao Yan was slightly absent minded. He smiled bitterly and shook his head. A hypothetical situation was eventually only a hypothetical situation. Therefore, regardless of what kind of attitude he currently had toward Nalan Yanran, he must definitely go to the Misty Cloud Sect.

The current him may no longer possess too much anger toward Nalan Yanran, but her forceful ending of the engagement back then had caused the Xiao clan and his father, whose position was extremely high in his

heart, to be completely embarrassed. This kind of thing was like giving them a hard slap in front of countless of people within the Jia Ma Empire social scene. This was known as a shame to the entire clan.

Although Xiao Zhan had never mentioned this matter after the wedding engagement was cancelled due to his fear of provoking Xiao Yan, the latter was very clear that regardless of what happened, Xiao Zhan's heart had hard feelings. During the many years of the existence of the Xiao clan, he was the first clan leader who experienced something as shameful as people forcefully arriving at their doorstep and high handedly ending the wedding engagement that his father had promised back then using a domineering tone.

Moreover, the youth who carried the name of a 'cripple', had stubbornly promised his father within the Xiao clan's main hall that he would get back at them for the humiliation.

It was this promise that the young man began his tough training and even finally left his clan. Like an ascetic, he roamed the empire, polishing the innocence in his body.

During the near two years that he had left the clan, Xiao Yan had roamed over half of the Jia Ma Empire. Finally, after going around in circles, he came to this city. The reason for this was that Three Year Agreement. Currently, he did not have much interest in taking revenge against her. He only wanted to bring this news to remove the hard feelings in his father's heart. After which, he would smile and laugh, "This time around, I have really divorced her. No one will doubt that."

Therefore, regardless of what happened, he must head for that Misty Cloud Sect. Of course, if he won against her in the Three Year Agreement, Xiao Yan did not mind carelessly saying a sentence to her, who had once acted lofty and had a face filled with disdain in front of him, "Your judgement is really quite bad."

This could be considered the last little revenge Xiao Yan would take against her.

During these three years, Xiao Yan had gained some things while certain

things had also faded. In whole, however, this kind of change was good.

“Hu.” Xiao Yan let out a long breath. His hands were crossed behind his head as his gaze became blurred. As he became inattentive, a young lady who was as elegant as a quiet lotus suddenly surfaced in his mind. Between a frown and a laugh, an involuntary softness and smile appeared on Xiao Yan’s cold face.

Xiao Yan currently did not have much feelings for that lady who had nearly become his wife. He did not have them in that past, and it was likely he would not have any in the future. If one wanted to forcefully insist that he had some, that would merely be the little feeling a man would have to conquer those women of noble statuses. After two years of experience, he had suddenly felt in his loneliness that his heart had unknowingly been quietly possessed and lead in circles by a young lady.

She was obviously the most dazzling pearl, yet she liked to hide by his side, acting in a pitiful, unloved and appealing manner.

Her background was obviously huge and mysterious, yet she gave the useless him a tranquil smile, being docile and obedient.

This young lady who was gentle like a pool of autumn water had quietly seeped into his heart without Xiao Yan even realizing it. Although young, the intelligent her was extremely clear that if she wanted to capture that restless heart, she had to simmer it with a warm flame. One day, when Xiao Yan had an idea to look back, he would understand.

“Xun Er, wait for me. Once I have settled the things here, I will go and look for you.” While he recalled that elegant and moving face, a warm flow trickled past in his heart as he muttered softly.

“Cough.” Just as Xiao Yan was muttering, a faint sound abruptly appeared from the roof.

“Who’s that?” Although the sound was slight, it was undoubtedly quite a loud muffled sound when a person with Xiao Yan’s outstanding sensing ability heard it. Immediately, his expression changed and he yelled.

At the moment that he yelled, Xiao Yan’s palm slammed on the bed. His

body shot out through the window in a supple manner. The tip of his leg pressed gently onto a protruding stone and his body shot up toward the roof like a huge bird. Carrying an icy coldness, his gaze instantly swept passed his surroundings.

The silver moon hung high in the sky as a faint moonlight was scattered down, shining onto the entire city. Despite borrowing the moonlight, Xiao Yan did not see even a person on the roof.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and swept his gaze once around his surroundings. With the moonlight shining down, Xiao Yan could clearly see up to a hundred meter radius. However, he still did not spot even a single person.

With a frown, Xiao Yan slowly walked on the roof. Moments later, he crouched down and stared intently at a broken tile. One could easily see the crack lines on the tile; obviously, it had just broke.

Xiao Yan's palm dug out a roof tile, Some lamp light shone from below. The room below was coincidentally where Xiao Yan was.

“Surveillance?”

Xiao Yan's face was dark and cold. The tile in his hand was instantly turned into a pile of powder. He patted his hands, stood up and spoke to himself in his heart, “For the other party to be able to disappear within such a short time, his strength should at least be at the Dou Wang class? In the Jia Ma Sacred City, there seems to be only a few clans who have a Dou Wang. Nalan clan? Mu clan? Primer clan? Imperial family?”

“Come out now. Hiding the head and showing the tail, What kind of horrible person are you?” The musing Xiao Yan suddenly turned his head around and coldly called out in a certain direction.

The cry lingered around the roof and began to dissipate a moment later. However, there was still not the slightest movement around him.

“Is there no one?” Seeing that his call had failed, Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and sighed helplessly. His gaze once again took a sweep around his surroundings. Finally, he could only leap down and return to his room.

After Xiao Yan leaped down, the roof descended into silence.

This silence did not continue for more than a few minutes when Xiao Yan's body abruptly shot up. When he saw that the roof still had no one, he could only laugh bitterly. Finally, he recognized that the person surveying from the roof had already left. He sighed, shook his head and had no choice but to return to his room.

Following Xiao Yan's true departure this time around, the roof remained silent for half an hour before a dark black shadow that was like the reflection from the wall, suddenly and strangely moved from a spot with its back facing the moon. A moment later, the black shadow somersaulted upward and actually agglomerated into a human shape.

The human figure was completely wrapped under a dark black robe. He randomly glanced at the spot where Xiao Yan had disappeared from, lifted his head slightly and revealed an old face which appeared to have a dark complexion.

"Hei, this little fellow is rather sensitive." The black robed person laughed softly as he whispered, "If I had not suddenly heard my lady's name, I would also not make such a lowly mistake. If others were to find out that a Dou Shi class boy had actually discovered my presence, wouldn't I lose all my face."

"This little fellow appears to have some feelings for Xiao-jie." The old man frowned under the robe as he said in a vexed manner. "The thing that gives one the greatest headache was that my lady actually has feelings for this little fellow. This won't do. Although Xiao Yan's training talent is quite good, he is far from reaching the necessary requirements. How great can one be if one continues to hang around in the Jia Ma Empire, this broken place. If this goes on, he might end up feeling very dejected. Young man, do you really think it is so easy to court his daughter?"

The black robed old man sighed and mumbled, "But there are some people who are quite strong around this little fellow. The last time that old fellow called Jia Lao nearly discovered my presence. A strong person who is about to step into the Dou Zong class is indeed different."

“Ah, forget it. It is fortunate that this little fellow is hurrying to the Misty Cloud Sect. Once I have finished things here, I can return to protect my lady.” The black robed old man stretched out both his hands and twisted his body. His body shook a little and the black robe gradually became blurry. Finally, it turned into a dark black shadow that shot into the darkness in a lightning like manner before becoming completely quiet.

Xiao Yan, who had returned to his room, sat beside a table. He lifted his head and stared intently at the roof until his neck ached a little. Only then did he helplessly lower his head and rub his neck.

“Creak.”

As Xiao Yan was patted his shoulders, the door was suddenly pushed opened. A smiling Hai Bo Dong slowly walked in. When he saw Xiao Yan, who had not fallen asleep, he smiled and walked to the side of the table before sitting down. He lifted a teacup and quickly poured it into his mouth. “Little fellow, you were really capable today. Ha ha, you actually even managed to completely shock Fa Ma, that old fellow.”

Xiao Yan watched Hai Bo Dong and smiled. He fondled his chin, hesitated for a moment before suddenly speaking, “Old Hai, I wonder if you have sensed someone following us recently?”

“Following?” Hai Bo Dong was at a loss for a moment when he heard this. He immediately smiled and shook his head. “How can it be? In this Jia Ma Empire, no one can follow us under my watch! Even that old demon cannot.”

Knitting his eyebrows together, Xiao Yan licked his lips and slowly told him about the matter from before in a summarized manner.

“Really?” Seeing Xiao Yan’s expression, which did not appear to be that of a joking one, Hai Bo Dong’s face gradually became grave. His shrivelled finger gently knocked on the table. A while later, he appeared to have suddenly recalled something and said softly, “Little Fellow, I will tell you something. But this matter is something I am not certain of.”

Seeing Hai Bo Dong secretive manner, Xiao Yan was stunned and he asked uncertainly, “What is it?”

“You should know about our fight at Yan City with the two mysterious Dou Huangs back then, right?” Hai Bo Dong fondled his beard and softly spoke with a frown, “At that time, I vaguely sensed that there was another extremely strong Qi present. However, it was a pressing situation back then and I was unable to sense it very clearly. Ever since that time, I have sensed it a couple more times and those senses were similarly as vague. Hearing what you have said tonight, I guess that there appears to be a mysterious person who has been following behind us for a long time.”

Hai Bo Dong’s soft voice caused Xiao Yan to suddenly feel a little creepy. He swallowed his saliva and softly spoke, “Even you cannot sense it? How can that be? Don’t tell me that the mysterious person is a Dou Zong?”

“Uh.” Hai Bo Dong smiled bitterly and shook his head. He sighed, “I have already told you that this is only my guess. We cannot be certain whether there’s such a person or that we are overly sensitive.”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan also laughed bitterly. He frowned and thought it over repeatedly, but he could not think of when he had come into contact and offended a Dou Zong class strong person.

“Alright. don’t be so distressed. For such matters, we will let nature take its course. If there’s really someone following us, he will definitely have intentions. Since this is the case, I think that he would show himself sooner or later.” Hai Bo Dong patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and comforted.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. For now, he could only think in this manner.

“Hehe, do you have an interest to go and do something good tonight? Fa Ma and Jia Lao, those two old fellows will be present.” Hai Bo Dong suddenly said with a smile.

“Uh? The three of you acting together? What do you want to do?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan was momentarily at a loss and immediately said in a stunned manner. Three Dou Huangs acting together. Whose home did they plan to flip over?

“Hee hee.”

“Don’t tell me it’s because of the grey robed young man?” Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows together. A while later, his eyebrows twitched as he spoke.

“It is that fellow. Fa Ma keeps sensing that there’s something wrong so he wants to go and check on his background. You should also know just how much of a blow the reputation of the association would receive if someone from the Chu Yun Empire were to take the champion spot of the Jia Ma Empire’s Grand Meeting.” Hai Bo Dong smiled and said.

“You aren’t going to...” Xiao Yan’s hand slid horizontally across his throat as he softly said.

“We’ll look at the situation. That possibility is not ruled out. By helping Fa Ma, that old fellow, this time around, he will owe me a favor. Ha ha.” Hai Bo Dong smiled again and said.

“All of you are ruthless.” Xiao Yan pulled at the corner of his mouth. Was the scene behind the Grand Meeting not too dark?

TL: Very biased

“Don’t give me that nonsense. If you want to see the background of that fellow, follow me.”

Hai Bo Dong stood up. His body swayed as he walked out of the room. Behind him, Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment and followed. He really wanted to see if that fellow really had such ability at such a young age, or if there was some other reason for it.

Chapter 312: Truth

Under the night sky, two shadows shot over the roofs of different houses in an agile manner. Between some of the houses were spacious streets and although it was already late at night, a great deal of people still filled the streets, making noise. Fortunately, the speed of the two human figures in midair was extremely fast. Even if one raised their head, he would merely see two black lines that flashed and disappeared.

Xiao Yan followed close behind Hai Bo Dong and the Dou Qi in his body slowly tumbled, creating waves of seemingly never ending energy for the muscles in his body. The tip of his feet gently pressed on the roof and his body quickly shot forward.

“We’re here.” After Xiao Yan followed Hai Bo Dong closely as he rushed forward for a distance, Hai Bo Dong in front of him suddenly warned.

Hearing this, Xiao Yan nodded his head. His body that was leaning forward bent down slightly. When his feet touched the ground, his palm also gently pasted onto the roof tiles, making a perfect landing. There was a slight soft sound, but other than that, there was not even the slightest crack on the fragile tiles.

Xiao Yan patted his hand and stood up. He was, however, not pleased with the way he had landed. If there was a Dou Ling class person below, it was likely that Xiao Yan would have been discovered by him because of that slight sound.

Xiao Yan raised his head and eyed Fa Ma and Jia Lao who were seated comfortably on the huge roof. Clearly, they had been here for quite a while and were currently smiling as they eyed Hai Bo Dong and Xiao Yan who were hurrying over.

After sweeping over the roof, Xiao Yan and Hai Bo Dong appeared by Fa Ma’s and Jia Lao’s side. The four pairs of eyes exchanged glances and all of them laughed quietly.

“I knew that you would follow.” Fa Ma smiled and said as he eyed Xiao Yan.

“I am also quite interested in that fellow. He has such a terrifying ability at such an age. This kind of talent can be called abnormal.” Xiao Yan sighed. If that fellow was really as old as he appeared on the surface, it was indeed quite a blow to others. Seeing the dexterous manner he displayed when refining medicine, it was likely that he should be around a tier four alchemist. A seventeen year old tier four alchemist. Xiao Yan clicked his tongue. Back then, when Gu He reached a tier four alchemist, his age was nearly thirty. Yet this person was around half his age.

If his age was true, just what kind of terrifying person would he be once he gradually grew older in the future. Tier seven? Or perhaps tier eight. This kind of level was basically sufficient to stand at the peak of the Dou Qi continent!

Even the current Xiao Yan had merely just stepped into the level of a tier three alchemist. This was only the case because of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’. When comparing the two of them, the large gap between them caused people to be stunned.

“It should not be possible.” Seeing Xiao Yan’s shocked face, Fa Ma shook his head and voiced his thoughts, “If there was really such a genius appearing within the Chu Yun Empire, there would have been an uproar long ago. It is impossible that we did not receive even the slightest news. After all, the news of such a talented seventeen year old alchemist would really be overly maddening.”

“Hey, why are you randomly guessing about that here. Let’s hurry and go investigate. If you are really uneasy, then...” Jia Lao by the side laughed faintly and his hand performed a horizontal cut. For such a strong person, he could have almost no emotional fluctuations when killing a person. Killing people to them was as if they were killing a chicken. He was in such a profound realm that Xiao Yan could not stop from smiling bitterly at.

“Ke ke, let’s go.” Fa Ma smiled and nodded without voicing any disagreement. Evidently, he had quietly admitted that this was a course of action that was not impossible. He smiled at Hai Bo Dong and Xiao Yan, and took the lead in moving his body, flashing towards a luxurious inn

toward the south of the city.

As he eyed the three human figures flashing past in front of him, Xiao Yan hesitated briefly before he began to closely follow them. That fellow had not the slightest relationship with him. If the fellow was killed, then so be it. In any case, Xiao Yan did not have a good impression of that fellow. He was not some diabolical person. If others did not offend him, he would not offend others. When faced with people who had no relation to him, however, Xiao Yan could still reach the state of being indifferent.

Their quick movement this time around continued for a few minutes before it came to a stop with a waving gesture from Fa Ma at the front.

“That fellow is currently living here.” Fa Ma landed on the roof without the slightest abnormal sound. When his gaze watched Xiao Yan rushing over, he suddenly waved his sleeves and a soft force covered the point where Xiao Yan landed. This time around, the latter did not create even the slightest sound.

Xiao Yan nodded gratefully toward Fa Ma before quietly standing by Hai Bo Dong’s side. He knew that on such an occasion, he only needed to be an audience.

“Hei, this fellow seems to have made some preparations.” Jia Lao suddenly laughed coldly. At this moment, a spot some distance in front of his feet had an extremely fine black line stretched out. Xiao Yan looked over only to find that two tiny black colored bells were hung at the two ends of the black line.

“Small tricks.” A hand was waved and a ferocious force quietly floated over the air. The two black colored small bells did not even emit the slightest sound when they were shook to nothingness.

“Allow me.” Hai Bo Dong smiled. His shrivelled hand that was like rotten wood slowly extended out from his sleeves. A faint white colored fog was shrouding his hand. That icy cold air caused the surrounding temperature to instantly be reduced significantly.

As he pressed his palms gently downward, a white colored fog covered over the tile. Finally, it swiftly began spreading outward. In an instant, it

shrouded the entire roof.

“Ice Mirror!” Eyeing the white colored fog that was shrouding the place, Hai Bo Dong softly cried out. The fog swiftly coagulated, finally turning into a layer of thin ice that covered the roof.

“Appear!” Hai Bo Dong once again cried out softly. Xiao Yan suddenly had a bizarre realization. This vast expanse of white, thin ice actually began to become illusionary. At one instance, a spacious room was projected on the thin ice, much like a movie being played, imprinting all the bodies within it clearly onto the ice layer.

Once he completed all this, Hai Bo Dong patted his hand. He eyed Xiao Yan’s astonished face and could not help but smile and explain, “It is just a little trick. I used the cold air to invade into the room. After which, it coalesced into ice fragments that are not easy to discover. Finally, the reflection of these ice fragments will project all that is within.”

“What a brilliant control over the ice.” Xiao Yan praised.

“It is only a little trick and only has this little effect. It isn’t worth mentioning.” Hai Bo Dong smiled as he waved his hand. Although this was what he spoke with his mouth, Hai Bo Dong did not hide the pride on his face.

With a smile, Xiao Yan threw his gaze toward the ice layer under his feet. Currently, the room was void of anyone. It was likely that the gray robed young man had yet to return.

“Let’s wait.” Once he said these words, Fa Ma sat cross-legged on the ice layer, closed his eyes and rested.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. He could only sit down. When he touched the ice layer, he did not sense the slightest cold air. It was likely that the low temperature on the ice had already been suppressed by Hai Bo Dong. Immediately, Xiao Yan once again thought even more highly of his ability to control ice.

As Xiao Yan and the others each became quiet, the roof descended into silence. When this silence persisted for nearly half an hour, the room’s

door within the ice layer suddenly moved. Hai Bo Dong, who had his eyes tightly shut, was first to sense something and opened them. He pressed his hands down at Fa Ma and Jia Lao by the side, who had also sensed something. After which, he lowered his head and stared at the ice mirror.

After the room's door moved, a gray robed person slowly walked in. That tender young man's face was that of the dark horse who had been the most shocking person in the Grand Meeting today.

Seeing the gray robe man who had just entered, Xiao Yan involuntarily suppressed his breathing. He did not dare make the slightest movement with his body as his eyes stared intently at the other parties' every movement.

Once the gray robed person entered the room, he did not do any strange actions. He shut the door properly and randomly washed up before sitting cross-legged on the bed to adjust his condition.

Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows slightly at the gray robed young man's ordinary action. He licked his lips, turned his head and eyed Hai Bo Dong's three man group who were still quietly waiting. Xiao Yan could only continue turning his gaze downward and patiently waited.

It was the dead of night after an hour had passed. The gray robed young man, who was adjusting his condition, suddenly opened his eyes. His dark and cold gaze slowly swept across the room. After which, he descended from the bed and gently closed all of the windows in the room. Finally, his hands were placed behind his back as he raised his head and swept his gaze to every corner of the room, engaging in a detailed scan of the beams above.

Standing on the roof, Xiao Yan eyed the gray robed young man who had raised his head and scanning the beams. He could not help but swallow a mouthful of saliva. As one could see the interior using the ice layer, it was as though the gray robed young man was staring at their group darkly and coldly while they watched him.

However, it was fortunate that this was an illusion on Xiao Yan's part. Those ice fragments that Hai Bo Dong had fixed up were at very covert

locations. Therefore, once he had swept his gaze once around, the gray robe young man heaved a sigh of relief.

“Humph, what a crappy Grand Meeting. Once I obtain the champion position here, I will make sure that the reputation of the Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist Association is disgraced. Once the association loses the trust of the alchemists, it will be finished!” The gray robe young man twisted his neck and suddenly said with a cold laugh.

The gray robe young man’s hand touched his face and frowned slightly as he softly mumbled something. With a flip of his palm, a pale-red colored medicinal pill appeared in it.

Damn ‘Appearance Recovery Pill’. Although it can allow one to returned to his appearance when he was young, it merely affects the surface. Ah, if it were not for wanting to reduce the reputation of the Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist Association within other countries, our association would not need to spend such a great effort to refine this kind of priceless thing. Moreover, if one wanted to recover one’s previous appearance, one would continually need to eat a specific medicinal pill. This kind of consumption is too large.” The gray robed young man softly muttered. He squeezed the pale-red colored medicinal pill into his mouth. He then made a slight chewing movement before swallowing it into his body.

Not long after consuming the red colored medicinal pill, the tender face of the gray robe young man within the room suddenly began to tremble in a frightening manner. At the same time, his figure had also grew taller by quite a bit. In merely an instant, the tender young man around seventeen years old had stunned everyone as he changed into a middle aged large man with a dark and cold expression.

“Sure enough, there is something fishy with this fellow.” As he watched the scene that had occurred within the room, the eyes that he used to stare at the ice layer slowly widened.

Chapter 313: Yan Li

“Tsk tsk. So it’s him.” Fa Ma suddenly laughed softly and coldly.

“Old Fa, do you recognize him?” Haring Fa Ma’s words, Xiao Yan softly inquired.

“Hee hee, I recognize him as the deputy chairman of the Chu Yun Empire’s Alchemist Association. His name seems to be called Yan Li. Back then, I met with him once. This fellow has quite a great reputation within the Chu Yun Empire. Additionally, this fellow is a great advocate for alchemists and ‘Poison Masters’ integrating together. Due to this, he has the trust of the poison masters in the Chu Yun Empire. Therefore, he is a very strong successor to become the next Chu Yun Empire’s Alchemist Association chairman.” Fa Ma said.

“It is just that I did not expect this fellow would actually dare to come to the Jia Ma Empire alone. It really is a case of skilled people tending to be really bold.” Fa Ma smiled faintly and said.

“What do we do next?” Hai Bo Dong carelessly asked.

“Let’s wait and see first.” Fa Ma mused for a moment before indicating for the few of them to wait patiently and not be rash.

Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly and ceased speaking. He then lowered it and focused his gaze on the large man within the room. At the moment, his heart had also quietly sighed in relief. It was fortunate that this fellow was not someone who was only seventeen. Looking at his appearance, he was likely at least thirty seven years old. Although such a talent could be considered outstanding, the level of his potential that Xiao Yan recognized in his heart had suddenly descended by quite a few times compared to before.

As the gray robed person within the room turned from a tender young man into a middle aged large person, a forceful Qi had also came splashing out of his body. That force was strong and it actually faintly had some of the greatness of a Dou Wang class strong person. It was likely that this middle aged large man’s level was at least around a seven star

Dou Ling.

“Hu, it is somewhat more comfortable to return to my original appearance. At the very least, I can unleash the full 100% of my ability.” The middle aged man smiled with satisfaction and said faintly as he sensed the surging force circulating within his body.

As his hand touched his face, the middle aged man seemed to have recalled something. He suddenly walked quickly toward the side of the bed. From behind the bed curtains, he found a black thread and he gently pulled it.

When Xiao Yan, who was on the roof, saw the large middle-aged man pulled the black thread, his expression changed slightly. He abruptly moved his sight and his gaze stared intently at the bells which had been shocked to powder by Jia Lao earlier. At that spot, the black thread suddenly moved. Not only did the bells fail to ring, but the black thread was also pulled down.

“Dammit!” As Xiao Yan muttered in his heart, the room was quiet for an instant before a stern cry suddenly sounded, “Who is above?”

“Do it.” Hearing the cry, Jia Lao laughed coldly. He waved his hand and his body abruptly disappeared. That terrifying speed caused Xiao Yan’s eyes to narrow.

Following behind Jia Lao, Hai Bo Dong’s and Fa Ma’s bodies had also instantly transformed in a gentle breeze and disappeared from the roof.

Within the room, the large middle-aged man eyed the edge of the black thread which was empty. He was momentarily at a loss before he quickly let out a stern cry. At the same time he did so, his feet abruptly stepped on the ground and his body turned into a violent wind that shot toward the window.

Just as he was only a couple of meters from the window, the middle-aged large man’s face changed abruptly. His body, which was rushing forward, suddenly came to a stop. His palm violently slammed onto the pillar by the side, borrowing the reverse force to instantly move his body a few meters.

“Bang!” At this moment, the window suddenly burst apart. It contained an overbearing breath and underlying strength shot in from the spot where the window was at and smashed on the huge pillar in the room. Immediately, numerous crack lines began to spread on the pillar like a spider web.

“Who is it?” As he eyed the pillar that was covered with crack lines, the large man’s eyes narrowed and cried out fiercely.

Ignoring the cry, a shadow flashed, rushed through the window and entered the room. As the shadow’s sleeves were waved, a violent voice, accompanied by a sonic boom that was like a muffled thunder, came sweeping through the room. Under this muffled thunder, the glass things within the room abruptly burst apart.

The large man had a dark expression as he watched the blurry looking human figure, who had come rushing in. He held his right hand straight and a dark yellow colored flame rose from his palm. His right hand trembled slightly, turned into a hand knife shape, and ruthlessly hacked at the person who had just came in.

“Humph!” Seeing that the large man had overestimated his own abilities and had actually wanted to stubbornly resist, the human shadow could not help but let out a mocking cold laugh. His eagle claw like hand was abruptly extended. Within the air, circles of overbearing forceful ripples gradually spread out from around his palm. The sound of the sonic boom shocked both the ears of the large man causing his ears rang.

The eagle claw and the large man’s hand knife came into contact in an instant. After which, they instantly separated. At the moment when they did so, a flush abruptly surged on the large man’s face. He could not resist spitting out a mouthful of fresh blood. His feet dragged against the ground, leaving a deep scar.

“Fa Ma, I know that it’s you guys! Since I, Yan Li, dared to come to the capital, I am not afraid that you would kill me. However, after you kill me, your alchemist association will also be finished!” After wiping the blood from the corner of his mouth, the large man saw that the human

figure had wanted to launch a ferocious attack, but instead could only cry out with a sinister expression.

The stern cry of the large man caused the human figure's attacks to slow slightly. Quickly following this, however, a dark and cold killing intent soared out. As the eagle claw moved, it was clear that it wanted to take the life of the large man.

"Old Man Jia, wait!" Just as the human figure was about to finish off this fellow, Fa Ma's deep cry suddenly sounded.

Hearing this, the human figure was at a momentary loss. He could only helplessly and immediately withdraw his body. His body moved in a flash and appeared beside the table while he coldly and darkly stared at Yan Li who was paralyzed as he sat on the ground.

"How ruthless." On the roof, Xiao Yan was shocked as he watched Jia Lao who attacked without the slightest mercy. If it were not for that fellow called Yan Li reacting in a somewhat strong manner, it was likely that this Dou Ling who was about to become a Dou Wang would die in the first exchange.

"Fa Ma, it indeed is the few of you!" After throwing up a mouthful of saliva that contained fresh blood, Yan Li darkly said.

A gentle breeze swayed within the room. Immediately, the figures of Hai Bo Dong and Fa Ma appeared within it. Their gazes were icy cold as they stared at Yan Li.

"Old Man Fa, isn't it better to just kill him directly? Why are you giving him the opportunity of respite?" Jia Lao knit his eyebrows together and said. Although he wore a linen robe and had a friendly smile, he would not give the slightest concern about the difference in level between himself and the other party who he struck. Once he attacked, he would directly take the person's life.

Fa Ma shook his head. It was as Yan Li had said. As the deputy chairman of the Chu Yun Empire's Alchemist Association, he had likely already prepared to be exposed when he had dared to come to the Jia Ma Empire's capital where there were countless of strong people. Therefore, it was not

likely that he had no plans to deal with it. If they were to really kill him here, they might end up landing into someone's trap.

"Hee hee, it seems that Fa Ma still sees very far. As long as you kill me, the news of the Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Association willfully killing off the competitors to manipulate who the champion of the Grand Meeting would swiftly spread throughout the few empires around the empire. When that time comes, I want to see just how long this association of yours can last." Yan Li swayed as he stood up. He then coldly laughed, "You can choose to believe or doubt these words of mine. If you want to gamble the reputation of the Alchemist Association, you can come and try."

"Yan Li, you had disguised your identity and participated in our Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Grand Meeting, violating the condition to participate in the Grand Meeting. According to the rules, our association has the right to punish you." Fa Ma said faintly.

"Disguise? Ha ha, just because you said disguise, does it mean disguise?" Yan Li suddenly lifted his head and laughed loudly. He flipped his hand and three red colored medicinal pill appeared at the tip of his finger. A dark yellow colored flame rose and instantly incinerated those medicinal pills into nothingness,

"Fa Ma, with your experience, I think that you should have heard the name 'Appearance Recovery Pill'. That's right, it is that thing that turned me into the appearance of a youth." Yan Li proudly laughed, "This red colored medicinal pill was specially refined by our association. It is able to let me recover my old appearance. Ten minutes later, my appearance will once again return to my youthful appearance. Now, the remaining three pills have already been destroyed by me. Do you think that there would be someone who will believe that I am the deputy chairman of the Chu Yun Empire's Alchemist Association with that youthful appearance of mine? The people would only say that it is you, Fa Ma, quietly killed me because you were afraid of losing face when I, as a person from the Chu Yun Empire, obtained the champion position."

Fa Ma's expression darkened. A cold glint flashed in his turbid eyes.

Yan Li smiled coldly at the volatile expression of Fa Ma. His heart was also uneasy. The other party consisted of three Dou Huangs. With this kind of lineup, it was extremely easy if they wanted to kill him. It may be as he had said earlier, that once he died, his people would begin to create a large amount of rumors in order to achieve their aim of crushing the Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Association. However, who did not fear death? Yan Li was not a hot-blooded person. If it were not for the position of the Chu Yun Empire's Alchemist Association Chairman soon becoming vacant, and that he had quite a few strong competitors, then he would not have taken such a big risk and performed in this event where he had a great chance of losing his life in order to raise his reputation within the alchemist world of the Chu Yun Empire.

"As long as I can successfully return this time around, the position of the chairman of the Alchemist Association will definitely be mine. Without paying the price, what reward could there be? Moreover, Fa Ma's ability may be strong, but he was too concerned about the association. Therefore, he might not take such a big risk." Before he came, Yan Li had clearly analyzed Fa Ma's character. However, an analysis was only an analysis. If there were any changes, then he would really be finished.

"Hu." The volatile expression Fa Ma suddenly expressed within the room caused a pressuring atmosphere. He coldly said, "Alright. I won't kill you now. However, it may not be so easy if you want to obtain the champion spot of the Grand Meeting!"

"Hee hee, you need not worry about this. In the Grand Meeting this time around, other than the young man called Yan Xiao, there is nothing unusual about the rest. If I cannot even contend with these people of the younger generation, how will I be able to fight for the spot of the association's chairman?" Yan Li smiled and said as his heart quietly sighed in relief.

"Then just wait and see." The corner of Fa Ma's mouth moved slightly. His voice was so icy cold that it appeared to have not even the slightest warmth, "Additionally, I hope that you can successfully return to the Chu Yun Empire to fight for the position of the chairman."

“Let’s go.” Fa Ma called out in a low voice as he waved his sleeves gently. His body turned into a black shadow under Yan Li’s ugly expression and flashed out of the room. Behind him, Hai Bo Dong and Jia Lao could only helplessly follow.

“Old fellow, you actually dared to threaten me. As long as I become the champion, my exposure will naturally be great. I don’t believe that you will dare to attack me when that time comes.” Yan Li clenched his teeth together as he darkly said. He lifted his tea cup and violently poured it into his mouth, only to realize that his hand was trembling in a manner that could not be mistaken. It appeared that the trembling was due to fear.

If he did not become the champion, the chase from three Dou Huangs would leave him with no path to escape.

Chapter 314: Windfall

Four shadows quietly flashed under the night sky, shrouded in silence.

“Hei, Old Man Fa, we have wasted an entire night. Now you want to just leave empty handed?” Hai Bo Dong finally could not resist opening his mouth to speak as his toes pressed gently against the rooftops.

On one side, Jia Lao also nodded his head. With his character, he would naturally not leave empty handed.

“In what way is this empty handed? Don’t we already know the true identity of that fellow? Now, we at least have some foundation in our hearts.” Clearly knowing Hai Bo Dong’s and Jia Lao’s bad mood, Fa Ma could only helplessly shake his head as he replied.

“What use is there to just know? Won’t he still participate in the competition tomorrow? With that ability of his and his many years of experience refining pills, becoming the champion will not be very hard for him.” Jia Lao knit his eyebrows together as he said.

“Ke ke, don’t we still have Yan Xiao and the two other little fellows? Who among the three of them doesn’t have some trump cards? There might be something unexpected that will happen tomorrow.” Fa Ma glanced at Xiao Yan behind him before saying with a smile.

“You stop pretending to be muddled. Yan Xiao and the other two little fellows may have quite great talent, but that fellow is after all the deputy chairman of the Chu Yun Empire’s Alchemist Association. Moreover, he has come prepared this time around. The chances of the three of them obtaining victory is very small.” Jia Lao said in a deep voice, “If that fellow were to become the champion, not only will your association’s reputation decline greatly, but the Jia Ma Empire will also be ridiculed in the continent for a while.”

“The most important thing is that once he becomes the champion, that fellow will increasingly become the focus of attention. When that time comes, it would be very problematic even if you wanted to kill him along the way.” Hai Bo Dong added.

Xiao Yan was behind everyone, quietly listening to the three people argue in front of him. He understood clearly that it was best not to interrupt at such an instance.

“Do you think I don’t know the ability of that girl Yue-er? Although obtaining the top three may not be considered too difficult, there would still be some difficulty for her to become champion even without the sudden appearance of that fellow. As for Liu Ling, he has indeed learned many things from Gu He, but he loses out in terms of age and his experience is far from that of Yan Li.” Jia Lao frowned as he analyzed the situation, “Among the three of them, only Yan Xiao can barely contend with that fellow. However, I can be certain that Yan Li had hidden a lot of his ability today. In the final round of the competition tomorrow, I’m afraid that Yan Xiao will end up at a disadvantage.”

Fa Ma was quiet. His face was volatile and his eyes repeatedly flickered.

“Ah, Old Man Fa, you should think of some solutions. That fellow’s participation in the competition is already against the rules so you need not bother continuing to guard those useless things. Just do what you need to do. All is well if you don’t let that fellow become champion.” Hai Bo Dong sighed.

“Hu.” Fa Ma heaved a long sigh and inhaled some of the somewhat icy cool night air. His moving speed suddenly slowed down as he nodded slightly and whispered, “That’s right. We should do something. The tradition of the Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist Association has lasted for so many years and cannot be discredited in my hands.”

“Hee hee, it’s good that you know this.” Seeing Fa Ma finally opening his mouth, Hai Bo Dong and Jia Lao also sighed in relief as they both spoke with a smile.

Fa Ma frowned for a moment before suddenly turning around. He eyed Xiao Yan, smiled and said, “Little fellow, the strength that you have displayed today is not your limit, right?”

Hearing this, Xiao Yan was momentarily at a loss. He raised his head and looked at the smiling Fa Ma before replying hesitatingly, “Old Fa, why are

you asking this? I have indeed hid a little.”

“Ha ha, I just knew it. Why is it that all the young people these days like to play it this way?” Fa Ma laughed out loud. He then let himself fall back, patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and smiled yet again as he said, “During this Grand Meeting, I’m afraid that I will have to rely on you to fight for the champion spot with Yan Li.”

“Old Fa must be joking. Although I do not like to say good things about the other person, you should also know that the fellow is a deputy chairman of an association. An inexperienced young fellow like me will have great difficulty surpassing him.” Xiao Yan shook his head and sighed.

“Naturally, we cannot simply rely entirely on you. Since that fellow broke the rules first, then I cannot be blamed.” Fa Ma smiled faintly and said. Immediately, he threw his gaze toward Hai Bo Dong and Jia Lao, “Both of you should return first. I will bring young friend Yan Xiao back to the association, There are some things that I need to discuss with him.”

Hearing Fa Ma’s words, Hai Bo Dong and Jia Lao were at a loss. They immediately exchanged a glance and nodded slightly. After which, they cupped their hands toward Fa Ma before they headed to the east and west respectively, disappearing from Xiao Yan’s sight in the blink of an eye.

Xiao Yan watched the two of them disappear and turned his gaze toward Fa Ma. In an uncertain voice, he asked, “Old Fa, what are you planning?”

“Ke ke, follow me.” Fa Ma smiled, moved his body and flashed toward the middle of the city where the Alchemist Association was located. Behind him, Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment before following closely.

With one person at the front and one at the back, the two of them quickly flew through the city sky. Ten minutes later, they stopped at the Alchemist Association without alerting anyone.

“Let’s go.” Fa Ma said to Xiao Yan before leading the way into the interior of the association.

Although it was currently late in the night, the Alchemist Association was still brightly lit, making it appear like daytime. At the entrance, cold

looking guards were monitoring everyone entering and exiting without knowing what being tired meant. When their gazes suddenly swept over an old man who was striding toward the association, they were first startled before their bodies immediately and abruptly tensed. Their eyes were filled with respect and reverence as they stared at Fa Ma who was slowly walking over.

Fa Ma smiled carelessly at the guards at the door. He turned around and hastened Xiao Yan before lifting his legs and walking into the association.

Hearing Fa Ma hurrying him, Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. He immediately followed closely under the surprised gazes of those guards. Since they had first become guards at this place, they had not seen Fa Ma treat a young person in this manner before.

Xiao Yan walked into the association and followed Fa Ma as he swiftly passed through a few large rooms. During this period, the many alchemists, who saw Fa Ma, displayed a reverence on their faces as they bowed and retreated to one side. Following beside Fa Ma, Xiao Yan borrowed Fa Ma's glory and enjoyed this kind of treatment.

When the two of them walked up the stairs, those alchemist within the large hall immediately began to whisper privately among themselves.

"That young person appears to be that Yan Xiao from the Grand Meeting today, right?"

"It looks like the chairman views him with great importance."

"Che, what unnecessary words. He is one of the few people who can compete with that gray robed young man from the Chu Yun Empire. Would he not be paid attention to?"

"If he is able to become champion this time around, he would likely become the youngest Elder of the Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Association, no?"

"Ah, most heroes are born young. The old me has muddled on for an entire lifetime in order to merely obtain a supervisor level in the association."

Xiao Yan followed Fa Ma all the way until the highest floor of the association before stopping outside a room. Fa Ma then pushed open the door and entered while Xiao Yan followed behind. The latter's gaze swept around and he felt a little astonished. The room's size was very spacious, but it appeared somewhat old fashioned. A few bookshelves leaned against the walls and an ancient looking table stood alone in the middle of the room.

"Take a seat." Fa Ma sat down behind the table and said with a smile toward Xiao Yan.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded his head and carelessly drew out the chair before sitting down. He quietly stared at the smiling Fa Ma and it was a while later when he finally spoke with a smile, "Old Fa, if you have something to say, please do. If it is within my ability to help, I, Yan Xiao will not refuse you."

"Ke ke, I think you can also guess that the main reason for me asking you to come over is to talk about helping you become champion." Fa Ma smiled and replied.

"I also really hope to take the champion spot. but..." Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and waved his hand.

"I know." Fa Ma nodded his head. He fondled his beard and voiced his thoughts, "During the competition round tomorrow, there's not much trick to the examination question. One basically has to rely on one's own ability and trump cards."

"In that round of the competition, free reign is completely given. All the things, including the medicinal ingredients must be prepared by oneself. In other words, it means that in the examination tomorrow, the association will not give any medicinal formula. The competitors must rely on their own collection and go to the limits of their abilities to find suitable medicinal ingredients. At the same time, assuming that you have prepared a medicinal formula, you must also have the sufficient ingredients in order to refine the medicinal pill. If you don't have it, then you can only consider yourself unlucky." Fa Ma waved his hand as he

spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan's mouth opened slowly. Some time later, he could not resist letting out a curse. If he did not have Fa Ma to reveal the information before hand, the highest tier medicinal formula that he could refine during the examination tomorrow would be those tier three medicinal formulas that Yao Lao had occasionally transmitted to him. However, a medicinal formula of this tier would clearly be very difficult to win against Yan Li, Little Princess and Liu Ling, whose collections were incomparably vast.

"Although this kind of examination had a part which leaned toward luck, luck is also one kind of ability. Therefore..." Fa Ma smiled and continued, "According to my prediction, that Yan Li should have a tier four medicinal formula in his collection. With his identity as the deputy chairman, he should have the ingredients completely prepared."

"Tier four? With his ability, he should be able to refine a tier five medicinal pill, right?" Xiao Yan frowned and said.

"Yes he can, but the chances of failure are too high. Therefore, it is clearly unsuitable for this kind of competition."

"But even if it is a tier four, it looks like there's nothing I can do. I'm not afraid of you laughing at me for being shabby, but the medicinal formulas I have on me that are within my ability to refine are only at most a tier three. What's more, many of the medicinal ingredients are not completely prepared." Xiao Yan sighed.

"Ke ke, I was able to guess this." Fa Ma smiled and nodded his head. He eyed Xiao Yan and said, "I have called you over naturally because I need to to win over Yan Li. Thus, I can help you solve the problem regarding medicinal formula and ingredients. However, this is only on the premise of you being confident to refine it!"

"In that case, I need to roughly see what tier the medicinal formula is and what its requirements are." Hearing this, Xiao Yan felt somewhat secretly pleased. With the wealth of the Alchemist Association, the medicinal formula that would be taken out would definitely not be

anything ordinary. If he were able to get his hands on it for free, it was naturally a windfall.

“The medicinal formula will definitely not disappoint you. This medicinal formula may only be tier four, but if one were to talk about its value, it would certainly not be lower than that of a tier five medicinal formula. It might even surpass it.” Fa Ma smiled faintly, stood up and walked behind the bookshelves. After a while, he carried a scroll that was as black as ink as he slowly walked out.

“Well, take a look. I think that you should like it.” Fa Ma rubbed the ancient surface of the scroll and handed it over to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan received the scroll with both hands and carefully pulled it open. His gaze slowly scanned the little information that was recorded on the surface of the scroll. A while later, he gently inhaled a breath of cool air.

“It’s far too valuable.”

Chapter 315: Three Lines Green Spirit Pill

“‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill’, a tier four medicinal pill. A normal ‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill’ is able to help a Dou Shi break through and enter the Da Dou Shi class. If a Da Dou Shi were to consume it, it has a somewhat low chance of raising the strength of the person consuming it by one star and there are no negative medicinal effects.”

“The ‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill’ is divided into three different grades. Each grade would result in an extra circular Pill Line forming on its body. If it is able to form three circular Pill Lines, it means that it is the highest grade of the ‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill’. Those below the Da Dou Shi class should use these medicinal pills of the highest grade with caution! If a Da Dou Shi were to consume this pill, he would have some chances of raising his strength by three stars in a short amount of time. At the same time, there is also a certain chance of the medicinal effect backfiring. The strength of those who receive the backlash may decline one or even two stars. However, their lives would not be endangered.”

“In order to refine the ‘Three Lines Green Medicinal Pill’ to the highest tier, one would need three different flames. Moreover, one must reach the pinnacle stage for changing between the three different flames. Otherwise, the chances of failure are extremely high. Those who have yet to meet the requirements should act cautiously.”

“A Da Dou Shi has only one chance of consuming the ‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill’ while he is within this class. If he were to consume it at another time, he would end up wasting his effort and the medicine because of his resistance to the medicine after taking it the first time. If one were to be promoted to a Dou Ling in the future, one can still consume it another time. However, even if one were to succeed consuming once again, it would at most help raise one’s strength by two stars. Moreover, the chances of failure will also increase by a few folds.”

“The ingredients needed to refine the ‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill: Green Flame Grass, Black Sky Flax.”

Xiao Yan's gaze slowly swept across the information recorded on the scroll. He could not help but swallow his saliva. It was common knowledge that the most valuable medicinal pills were naturally those kinds that could directly raise the strength of the person consuming it. Back then, the 'Qi Gathering Pill' that could only cause a person to overcome the obstacle of agglomerating one's vortex had already caused the few elders of the Xiao clan to have a great yearning for it. From this, one could see the extent of how valuable a medicinal pill like this was.

The 'Qi Gathering Pill', however, merely belonged to the category of the lowest quality. Currently, the 'Three Lines Green Spirit Pill' that Xiao Yan was holding in his hand, was the formula to a valuable medicinal pill that could truly cause countless of Da Dou Shi and Dou Ling class strong people to covet it until they became crazy.

A high tier 'Three Lines Green Spirit Pill' has some chances of raising a Da Dou Shi's strength by around three stars. Just thinking about it. A Da Dou Shi whose training talent was quite good would have difficulty doing this unless he had one to two years of time, assuming that he simply relied on himself to train and did not have any strange encounters.

That one to two years time could now be completely resolved by simply just consuming this one small little medicinal pill. One could imagine the extent to which this small little thing would cause those strong people of the Da Dou Shi class to descend into a frenzy.

Xiao Yan's hands held the dark black scroll tightly. He forcefully resisted the impulse to immediately use his spiritual strength to scan the refining information that was contained within it. Instead, he raised his head and eyed the smiling Fa Ma. His eyes could not hide his own yearning and fondness of this thing.

"You like it, right?" Fa Ma could not help but ask with a smile when he saw Xiao Yan's expression.

"Yes, yes!" Xiao Yan repeatedly nodded his head.

"If this medicinal formula was to be placed in the market, I think that there would be quite a number of people who would willingly use a high

Xuan class Qi Method or even a Di class Dou Technique to exchange for it.” Fa Ma smiled and said.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded his head. This ‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill’ was definitely worth such a price.

“This ‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill’ is a treasure that our association has kept within our collection for a long time. The one that you hold in your hand is only a copy of it. However, just copying the formula consumed five years of my time. Within the association, the only copy other than the original medicinal formula is the one in your hands.” Fa Ma said, “As this is a carbon copy, it can only be read once. After one completely reads it, the remaining Spiritual Strength contained in it will completely wear off.”

“Oh.” Hearing this, Xiao Yan felt a little relieved. If there was merely one copy of this expensive thing, it was likely that Fa Ma would not be willing to take it out.

“This ‘Three Line Green Spirit Pill’ could be considered to be among the most outstanding formulas among the tier four medicinal formula. If you are able to successfully refine it tomorrow, I think that you should be able to surpass everyone.” Fa Ma smiled and said, “Yan Li’s ability may be quite good, but he is disadvantaged in not knowing what the examination problem tomorrow. Therefore, as long as you are able to successfully refine it, your chances of becoming the victor will be very big.”

“That’s right.” Fa Ma paused slightly as he watched Xiao Yan seriously. In a deep voice, he said, “Do you have confidence in successfully refining it? This ‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill’ imposes an extremely stringent flame control ability. If one was even a little less cautious, he would definitely fail!”

Xiao Yan pursed up his lips as his palm slowly rubbed against the dark colored scroll. That comfortable feeling caused him to be reluctant to move aside. A long while later, he finally raised his head from his deep silence and seriously said, “If I say that I will definitely successfully refine it, I think that you would only treat it as a joke. There is no definite success when refining medicinal pill. All I can say is that if you choose me

from the few of us to refine it, my chances of success would be the highest!”

“How high?” Fa Ma softly inquired.

“Not even fifty percent.” Xiao Yan spread his hands and honestly said. With his current ability, he was extremely strained when refining a tier four medicinal pill. If it were not for Fa Ma saying that this medicinal pill tested one’s flame control ability greatly, Xiao Yan would really not dare to make any promise. After all, with his current ability, he may not be good at any other thing, but he definitely had confidence in himself in his control over the ‘Underground Green Lotus Flame.’

“Ugh, it’s not very high.” Sighing, Fa Ma smiled bitterly as he shook his head. He continued after rubbing his temples, “Indeed, among all the candidates, only you, Liu Ling or Yue Er has the chance of contending with Yan Li. However, among the three, I look most favorable upon you which is why I am helping you today.”

Xiao Yan silently nodded his head. He placed the dark black scroll gently on the table, stared at Fa Ma and said, “The chances of success that I have mentioned is already my limit. It’s really up to Old Fa to choose based on what you think is best.”

“You are willing to part with it?” Fa Ma stared at Xiao Yan before smiling as he asked.

“Of course I am unwilling. However, if old Fa is not willing to give it, would or rather, can I forcefully take it?” Xiao Yan smiled and said in a joking manner.

Fa Ma was quiet. His shrivelled finger knocked on the table surface, emitting a soft “Dou, Dou” sound which appeared in this quiet and vast room with a rhythm.

“Ah.” After the silence continued for a long while, Fa Ma suddenly sighed softly. He extended his hand and slowly took back the black colored scroll in front of Xiao Yan’s eyes which were somewhat disappointed.

The black colored scroll rotated in Fa Ma’s palm while his turbid eyes

were narrowed. A long while later, the rotation abruptly stopped. He suddenly stood up, held the scroll in his hand and sent it toward the front of Xiao Yan. Seeing the strange gaze of the latter, Fa Ma could only give a bitter smile and say, "At such a time, I don't have too much time to go and search for someone more outstanding than you. you are a lucky fellow."

"Therefore, it belongs to you."

Xiao Yan was momentarily at a loss. Immediately, a smile surfaced on his face. He extended both his hands to receive the scroll and fondled it admiringly for a while. After which, he spoke to Fa Ma seriously, "I will do my best!"

Fa Ma smiled and rubbed his eyes. He then sighed, "Little fellow. This time around, I have placed all my hopes on you. You better not disappoint me."

"You should stop adding more pressure to me. In any case, I will put in all my effort. Who can start determining what the results will be like now?" With such a large burden pressing down on him, Xiao Yan's face, which was originally full of smiles, immediately became much more bitter.

"Ke ke, alright." Fa Ma smiled and nodded before reminding, "You should use your Spiritual Strength to read it here. This thing is far too valuable. If some minor accident were to happen on your way back, that would really cause people to..."

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded his head and once again gradually opened the scroll. He closed his eyes slightly and his Spiritual Strength spread out from his eyebrows. Finally, it penetrated into the scroll and swiftly remembered the numerous and complicated information stored within.

As he eyed Xiao Yan, who had his eyes closed as the latter was memorizing the content, Fa Ma nodded slightly. He stood up, walked out of the room and called a guard, ordering him to go to the warehouse to get the medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Three Lines Green Spirit Pill'.

When Xiao Yan finally pulled back his Spiritual Strength from the scroll, his head was suddenly a little giddy. It was the first time that he had come

into contact with a tier four medicinal formula. The large amount of information was really so complex that it exceeded Xiao Yan's expectations. No wonder that even with someone of Fa Ma's ability it still required quite a few years in order to make a copy of it.

As Xiao Yan opened his eyes, the dark black scroll in his hands had quietly turned into a pile of black colored powder. He patted his hands and raised his head, only to realize that the originally neat and tidy table in front of him was now filled with piles of medicinal ingredients. The extent of the preservation of these medicinal ingredients was extremely perfect. There were even some that still had fresh dew on them.

"Here are three portions of the medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Three Lines Green Lotus Pill'. It is not that I don't want to give more but in this kind of competition, the time should be almost up if you were to fail all three times. In that kind of scenario, it would be altogether more straight-forward to admit defeat." Fa Ma pointed to the medicinal ingredients on the table and smiled as he spoke.

Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly and carefully placed all the medicinal ingredients of the table surface into his storage ring. He finally sighed in relief once the things were completely stored.

"I can only do so much. We will have to rely on you tomorrow." Fa Ma patted Xiao Yan's shoulders and smiled as he replied.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded his head heavily. He then repeated to Fa Ma, "Be rest assured that I will put in all my effort!"

"Then I hope that you will be able to obtain good results. Additionally, if there is an opportunity in the future, can you let me see your true appearance." Fa Ma laughed softly.

With a slightly stiffened smile, Xiao Yan nodded his head. "There will be an opportunity."

"Alright, it's already quite late. Old Fa, I will take my leave first. I'll meet you at the Grand Meeting tomorrow." Not wanting to continue getting entangled with this topic, Xiao Yan cupped his hands together toward Fa Ma, turned around and slowly walked out of the main door.

As he eyed Xiao Yan's gradually disappearing back, Fa Ma sighed and softly said, "Little Fellow, I hope that you can be victorious. Otherwise, I will suffer a costly loss."

Chapter 316: The Final Round: Begin!

When the sky had just become bright the next day, this flourishing city appeared like a huge machine controlled by a clock as it began to function in an orderly manner. The human flow that passed through the city's streets were the best attestments to the power of this large machine.

The place within the city which was most crowded and lively today was without a question the huge Imperial family's square. After yesterday's competition had been spread around by the audience, there was an increasing number of people whose minds were attracted by the news of this soul-stirring pill refining competition. Therefore, the area outside the Imperial family square was already filled with people even though it was still quite early. The dark mass of human head extended until the edge of one's sight.

As time elapsed, a morning ray from the horizon broke through the restraining layer of clouds and shone on the huge city. The closed main doors of the Imperial Family Square were slowly opened as the sun rose. Immediately, the black mass of people outside began flooding in like the tides.

Xiao Yan and Hai Bo Dong were stunned when they arrived at the open ground and eyed the long human dragon at the main door. Immediately, they shook their heads helplessly. It was unexpected that the audience today would be even crazier than the one from yesterday.

"Follow me." Hai Bo Dong swept his gaze around once before speaking to Xiao Yan. After which, he turned around and walked toward the other side of the plaza. Xiao Yan followed Hai Bo Dong and walked for some distance. The noise had also gradually been reduced by a large amount. They turned at a bend and Xiao Yan realized that there was another back door at the back of the plaza. It was just that there was over a hundred fully armed guards at this back entrance, totally blocking it.

Hai Bo Dong ignored these soldiers and led Xiao Yan through the entrance as though there was no one else present. Those guards also

appeared to be aware of the identities of the two of them since no one came forward to stop them.

Xiao Yan entered the door and walked for some distance before his sight suddenly broadened. He lifted his eyes and looked around, only to find that Liu Ling, and Little Princess had actually arrived earlier than him. Beside the two of them, there were quite a number of competitors who had passed the two rounds of the competition yesterday. This group of young people were conversing and smiling with one another.

When Xiao Yan and Hai Bo Dong arrived, everyone, who appeared to be discussing something softly, suddenly lowered their voices significantly. Although Xiao Yan was still wearing the robe of a tier two alchemist, there was not a single person among those present who was stupid enough to think that was a representation of his true ability. In the soul-stirring competition yesterday, the ability that Xiao Yan had displayed had caused everyone to watch him with amazement. Among this group of competitors, Xiao Yan undoubtedly belonged to the leading position. This leading position was something that even Liu Ling and Little Princess had difficulty comparing against. After all, the ridicule from Yan Li yesterday was a blow toward all the Jia Ma Empire's participants. Yet, Xiao Yan was the only one who could reflect the ridicule back at Yan Li.

Regardless of where one was, people with ability would always easily obtain other people's reverence. This did not have slightest change even when one was placed in the alchemist world.

"Haha, Mister Yan Xiao, you are quite early." The Little Princess smiled as she spoke and eyed Yan Xiao, before turning around and moving forward.

"Little Princess is also early." Although Xiao Yan did not like the Little Princess's initial attitude toward him when they first met, she was after all the descendant of that old demon whom even Hai Bo Dong feared. Therefore, it was not good for Xiao Yan to appear too cold. He nodded his head and randomly said some greetings that had no substance to them.

"The examination today is the final round. Mister Yan Xiao, we cannot

lose to that fellow.” The Little Princess softly laughed, unconcerned about the perfunctory reply that Xiao Yan gave.

“I will try my best. That fellow is definitely not someone simple.” Xiao Yan nodded as he replied.

“Mister Yan Xiao, you cannot make any mistake during such an important moment. I still wish to compete with you.” Liu Ling walked over and smiled faintly. Although he had managed to persist through the two examination rounds yesterday, it was clear that Xiao Yan was better than him if one did a comparison. This was really a blow to Liu Ling, whose character was usually arrogant.

Xiao Yan randomly nodded before raising his head. On the second story, Fa Ma and a group consisting of the upper echelons of the association were slowly walking out. When he saw that Xiao Yan had looked over, Fa Ma gave him a friendly smile. After which, he led everyone and walked down to greet Xiao Yan and the others.

As the group of them descended the stairs, Xiao Yan realized that Jia Lao was actually slowly following behind. He was currently smiling and conversing with a few elders of the association who were beside him.

Xiao Yan smiled as he chatted with Fa Ma and Jia Lao before he suddenly sensed something and turned his head around. He saw a grey-robed young man was slowly walking in from the spot where he had come in from earlier.

Following the entrance of the grey-robed young man, the originally noisy large hall immediately became quiet. Numerous gazes that contained all sorts of emotions paused on the former.

“What this fellow said last night was indeed true. Today, he once again recovered his appearance.” Xiao Yan shook his head slightly as he watched the appearance of the grey-robed young man which was exactly the same as yesterday. Did that so called ‘Appearance Recovery Pill’ really have such a miraculous effect? Even a Dou Huang was unable to distinguish if it was real or fake.

Fa Ma and Jia Lao eyed the grey-robed young man who had entered with

cold eyes. They exchanged glances while smiling faintly. The smile contained some cold killing intent. As strong people who stood at the peak of the Jia Ma Empire, the triumphant action of Yan Li in front of them undoubtedly meant that the latter thought that his lifespan was too long. If it were not for the circumstances of it being unsuitable to strike, and their fear of a blow to the association's reputation, it was likely that the three Dou Huangs would have instantly taken his life.

The grey-robed young man, no, he should be called Yan Li, currently had a smile on his tender face. His gaze was unconcerned as it swept passed Fa Ma's three man group. Finally, he swaggered over to the door that lead from the hall to the open ground. When he passed by Xiao Yan, his footsteps paused and he smiled before saying, "Among the three of you, only you have some ability. However, your good luck ends today. I will not hold anything back in this final round, ha ha!"

As he eyed Yan Li, who had walked off with a loud laughter, Xiao Yan merely shrugged his shoulders calmly. The Little Princess pretty face became somewhat dark while Liu Ling's became green. As the disciple of Pill-King Gu He, it was the first time he was looked down upon by someone to such an extent.

"Forget it, don't be angry. We will compete on the examination ground," Xiao Yan slowly exhaled, roughly estimated the time before turning around and headed toward the open ground. Behind him, the Little Princess helplessly followed. Liu Ling, on the other hand, stood in the same spot, violently ground his teeth and cursed before leaving the hall.

As he eyed the competitors leaving the hall in small groups, Jia Lao knit his eyebrows together. He softly said, "Looks like you have placed your hopes on Yan Xiao, no? However, can he win against that fellow Yan Li?"

"Ah, I am unsure either. In any case, I have done all that I can do. What remains is for Yan Xiao to rely on himself." Fa Ma shook his head and sighed, "Honestly speaking, he did not have too much confidence. Xiao Yan's talent may be great, but he is at a disadvantage by being so young.

Hearing this, Jia Lao could only helplessly nod his head. He did not

inquire about what kind of help Fa Ma gave Xiao Yan. This was after all, an internal matter of someone else's association.

As the group slowly walked out of the passageway, a piercing sunlight suddenly shone upon them. Their field of view suddenly widen and ground shaking cheers also invaded their ears like the tide.

Xiao Yan's hands covered his eyes, blocking off the sunlight. He raised his head and eyed the extremely crowded audience seats and could not help but quietly feel somewhat shocked. He turned his head and smiled to the Little Princess standing by his side before walking toward his position in the middle of the open ground.

When some sharp-eyed people in the audience seats saw that Xiao Yan appeared, a racket immediately occurred. Countless people began privately conversing among themselves.

"Hey, look at the one who obtained the best result yesterday. He's also very young."

"I heard that his name appears to be Yan Xiao, no? Looking at him, he should be just over twenty. How envious I am."

"In this examination, it appears that only he has the ability to contend with the grey-robed young man from the Chu Yun Empire. If he had not taken action yesterday, the one who would have had the best result may well have been the person from the Chu Yun Empire."

"Today's the most crucial competition. Hopefully, he can beat that fellow from the Chu Yun Empire. Otherwise, the Alchemist Association will really lose face this time around."

"That's right."

Ignoring the conversations that were transmitted from the audience seats, Xiao Yan quietly arrived at the position he held yesterday. After which, he sat cross-legged in the large rock chair behind the rock table. He appeared to be resting with his eyes closed, but in reality, he was repeatedly looking over the various refining methods and the areas where one need to pay special attention to when refining the 'Three Lines Green

Spirit Pill' within his mind.

As time slowly flowed by, more and more competitors flooded into the open ground. All the competitors who had entered the open ground acted similar to Xiao Yan as they sat down and adjusted their condition. Most of those who could persist until this point had quite a good ability. None of them wanted to dejectedly leave the competition ground in the final round because of a small, careless mistake.

When the bright sun was high in the sky, the seats had all be filed with countless crowds.

“Clang!” In an instant, a clear bell sound resonated through the open ground for a long time.

The moment the bell sounded, Xiao Yan, who had his eyes tightly closed, opened them. He gently let out a turbid breath that had been lingering in his chest, stood up and raised his head to watch the spot in front of the VIP seats where Fa Ma was at.

“Cough”

On the high platform, Fa Ma emitted a soft cough as his light gaze swept through the entire place. A long while later, the noisy place slowly quieted down. An elderly, calm tone sounded beside everyone's ears, “Ladies and gentlemen, today's examination will be the most important round of our Grand Meeting. The final victor will be the champion of this season's Grand Meeting. Therefore, do your best today with all the effort you have put forth!”

“Roar, roar, roar!” When Fa Ma's voice fell, the human crowd in the audience seats which had waited for a long time immediately let out an excited and unified loud roar. The deafening roar shot directly past the crowd.

Xiao Yan rubbed his ears, which were shocked by the roar until they became numb. He turned his head around and eyed Yan Li, who was a short distance away. The corner of the latter's mouth contained a cold smile. In a soft voice, he muttered, “It is finally about to begin. Next, prepare to fight desperately.”

Chapter 317: Each Revealing Their Abilities

Fa Ma pressed his hands together as his gaze slowly swept across the entire open ground. The deafening noise was gradually reduced as he did so. A vigor-filled loud voice echoed throughout the entire open ground for a long time.

“The association will no longer give any help to the participants during the third round of the competition. You will each have to rely on yourself for everything including the medicinal formula, medicinal ingredients, etc. In other words, you must successfully refine a type of medicinal pill within your ability during the time that has been allocated. The final victor will naturally be the one whose medical pill is the highest tier along with being the most useful.”

When the competitors in the open ground heard the clear voice that sounded by their ears, most of them were stunned by the unexpected examination prompt. A long while later, there were some competitors whose faces were among the first to become pale. Clearly, these people did not prepare any suitable medicinal formulas or sufficient medicinal ingredients. For such an examination prompt, the result of failing to meet these two requirements was very obvious. Their chances of failure would increase greatly.

Although Xiao Yan had already known the examination problem beforehand, he still put on an act and changed his expression slightly. After all, one would inevitable be doubted if one maintained a clam express when faced with such an unexpected question.

As Xiao Yan controlled the change in his expression, his gaze also swept all around him. He discovered that although the Little Princess and Liu Ling were initially somewhat stunned when they they heard the examination question, they managed to swiftly recover. The expressions on their faces did not appear too ugly.

“They really do have rich foundations. Seeing their expressions, the

examination question simply caused them to be a little surprised and does not appear to hinder their performance.”

While Xiao Yan muttered in his heart, he once again shifted his gaze toward Yan Li a short distance away.

Currently, the latter was also tightly knitting his eyebrows together. A while later, he coldly laughed and spoke in a soft voice, “No matter what kind of strange and unique question that you come up with, the champion position will be mine!”

“Since everyone is already familiar with the examination rules, the...” On the high platform, Fa Ma slowly raised his hand and abruptly waved it down. A faint sound reverberated throughout the entire place, “The third round of the examination will now begin!”

Once Fa Ma’s voice fell, the open ground, which had many private conversations, instantly quieted down. From the audience seats, countless gazes stared intently at the over one hundred competitors on the huge open ground below, waiting for their splendid performance today.

After Fa Ma’s voice fell, all the competitors on the open ground did not do anything. Instead, they coincidentally remained silent and mused with a frown, thinking of a method to handle the examination this time around.

The silence persisted for nearly ten minutes before Little Princess and Liu Ling chose to break it. The two of them slowly walked closer to their rock table and beckoned with their hands. Two somewhat ancient looking green and red cauldrons containing a faint, deep aura appeared on the stone table.

Hearing the sound of the cauldron landing on the rock table. Xiao Yan tilted his head and frowned slightly. The cauldrons that the two of them pulled out were clearly not the same ones they used yesterday. Seeing the deep auras that were emitted from the cauldrons, it was clear that the tier of the cauldrons clearly surpassed the red cauldron that Xiao Yan was using.

“Tsk tsk, Old Man Jia your Imperial family is indeed generous. You actually took out the ‘Green-Flame Cauldron’. That is a tier five cauldron.

I recalled that there were quite a number of tier four alchemists had gotten into a big fight over it back then. It really is unexpected that it finally ended up in your hands.” Fa Ma smiled and said in surprise as he eyed the green colored cauldron that the Little Princess had summoned.

“Ke ke, I am also not too certain about that. It is most likely that the little girl had pestered her father repeatedly with all kinds of tactics in order to get it.” Fa Ma shook his head and smiled faintly, “Gu He also acted extraordinarily. That red colored medicinal cauldron of Liu Ling’s seems to be the treasure that Gu He relied on to become famous back then, the ‘Fire-Mountain Flame Cauldron’. That is also a tier five medicinal cauldron.”

In the alchemist world, a medicinal cauldron was extremely helpful to an alchemist. When refining a medicinal pill, the best cauldron has the notable ability to increase the chances of success. Moreover, some of the low tier medicinal cauldrons didn’t have a very great ability to withstand heat. This would result in the cauldron suddenly bursting apart when refining medicinal pills. Therefore, the medicinal cauldrons also had quite a detailed difference in their grade. The cauldrons increased in quality from tier one to eight. Above tier eight, there was the ‘Heavenly Cauldron Ranking’. There seemed to be only thirteen medicinal cauldrons belonging to this grade. From this, it could be seen just how valuable they were. Xiao Yan’s dark red cauldron, on the other hand, was merely one that had just reached a shabby tier two regardless of how one tried to stretch its ability. Basically, it had no additional effect on the refining process and might not be able to withstand a complete refining of a high tier pill.

Of course, no matter how much help a medicinal cauldron provided, it was merely an external assistance. The most important thing was one’s personal ability. This was the reason why Yao Lao had only roughly mentioned the ‘Heavenly Cauldron Ranking’, but did not tell Xiao Yan in detail about the grades between the medicinal cauldrons.

A true alchemist grandmaster could use his palm as a cauldron and refine pills as he desired, without any limitation. Only that elegant demeanor could show the true style of a grandmaster.

“Yes, it is indeed that ‘Fire-Mountain Flame Cauldron.’ Fa Ma nodded his head and smiled as he continued speaking, “Back then, Gu He used it to take the champion spot during that year’s Grand Meeting. Since he is willing to give this medicinal cauldron to Liu Ling to participate in the Grand Meeting, it appears that he really has quite the expectation for the latter.”

“Unfortunately, if this year didn’t have that fellow or Yan Xiao, it would not be impossible for Liu Ling to become the champion. However, it is quite difficult now.” Hai Bo Dong shook his head and gloatingly smiled.

Fa Ma merely smiled, but did not speak. He threw his gaze toward the open ground.

Within the open grounds, Xiao Yan may have been somewhat astonished by the high tier medicinal cauldrons that Liu Ling and Little Princess had, but having received Yao Lao’s philosophy, he still thought that the medicinal cauldron was merely a foreign object. Therefore, he immediately withdrew his gaze and waved his hand. His dark red cauldron which appeared somewhat shabby looking when compared to Liu Ling and the Little Princess was carelessly called out by him.

Once the dark red cauldron appeared, it attracted somewhat stunned gazes from around him. Many people thought that Xiao Yan was similar to Little Princess and the others, keeping the best things until the last moment. However, it was unexpected that he still took out this lousy thing at this moment.

Xiao Yan was not too concerned about the gazes around him. He closed his eyes and thought for a moment. Then, he flicked his finger gently and a set of the ingredients needed to refine the ‘Three Line Green Spirit Pill’ appeared on the stone table. Looking at it, there was at least twenty different ingredients. This was the first time since Xiao Yan began learning how to refine medicine that he had to refine a medicinal pill made up of so many ingredients.

“Yes, the difficulty for a tier four medicinal pill is indeed quite great.” Xiao Yan sighed softly. He lifted his head and glanced around him, only to

realize that there were quite a number of competitors who had already began raising their flame and preparing to refine medicinal ingredients.

“Although this ‘Three Lines Green Spirit Pill’ is a tier four medicinal ingredient in name, I think that it would need to have at least two Pill-Lines if I want to surpass everyone. If it is only an ordinary ‘One Line Green Spirit Pill’, it should still be quite difficult to become the champion.” Xiao Yan frowned gently and muttered softly in his heart.

“Wow, it’s actually a blue color flame?” Just as Xiao Yan was about to raise his flame, a surprised noise suddenly rose from the audience seats.

Xiao Yan raised his head, feeling somewhat puzzled. He was immediately surprised as he saw that an azure flame was rising from the Little Princess’ delicate hand by the side. Waves of ripples like water waves were strangely forming around the rising flame.

“What kind of flame is that?” Xiao Yan was somewhat at a loss as he eyed that azure flame with surprise.

“But it appears to look quite familiar?” Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows slightly together and thought deeply for some time. His eyebrow suddenly twitched. Finally, he had recalled it. “This azure flame seems to have appeared on the Imperial family crest on the horse carriage that she had ridden on back then.”

The crest of the Imperial family was a huge unique beast that had its head raised as it let out a long roar. The body of the unique beast was shrouded by this kind of strange flame which had such ripples.

According to legend, in the early years of the founding of the Jia Ma Empire, the Jia Ma Empire Imperial family possessed a divine beast which was extremely strong. It had saved the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial family a number of times before. However, the little rumors among the people were mostly baseless assertions that were repeated and could not be treated as the truth. Therefore, there were not many people who believed them. Of course, this was other than those who had insider information.

“Eh? Don’t tell me that this flame is that ‘Shock-Wave Dragon’s’ ‘Dry Blue Water Flame’?” On the high platform, Fa Ma and Hai Bo Dong were

momentarily surprised when they saw the blue colored flame that the Little Princess had summoned. A while later, it appeared that they had recalled something and they turned their heads around to ask in astonishment.

“Haha.” Jia Lao smiled but did not open his mouth to reveal any information regarding the ‘Shock-Wave Dragon’ that the two of them had mentioned.

“What a lucky girl. It is really unexpected that the fellow which was in a deep slumber for god knows how long is actually still alive.” As they watched Jia Lao’s manner, Fa Ma and Hai Bo Dong helplessly shook their heads. They exchanged glances and saw the meaning contained within each other’s eyes. Although the ‘Dry Blue Water Flame’ could not be compared with the unique natural object like the ‘Heavenly Flame’, it was considered to be among the top when it came to the so called ‘Beast Flames’. Moreover, this kind of flame was tilted toward being dark and gentle. If a female were to use it to refine medicinal pill, the extent of the flame formability would be significantly raised.

Not long after the Little Princess summoned the dry blue flame, the audience seat once again emitted two other shocked noises. At this moment, Liu Ling had unexpectedly summoned a hazel colored flame. The other exclamations were emitted because of Yan Li. The flame that he had summoned was not of the normal yellow color, but a black colored flame.

As they eyed the multi-colored flames on the open ground, the emotions of everyone in the audience seat became somewhat excited. From the looks of this, it was clear that many people had held something back in the examination yesterday. This undoubtedly caused the examination today to become even more worthwhile to watch.

“Everyone indeed held something back.” As he eyed the many different colored flame, Xiao Yan suddenly laughed softly. He slowly raised his hand and flicked his finger gently. An elegant green colored flame suddenly rose from it. Instantly, the temperature of the open ground rose abruptly. At this moment, the originally happily dancing flames summoned by the Little Princess and the others had quietly become much more sluggish for

some unknown reason.

In the open ground, a gentle breeze suddenly blew past. Those different colored strange and unique flames suddenly slanted slightly. The thing that caused people to be amazed at was that the direction that these flames tilted was actually toward Xiao Yan at the middle of the open ground. Accurately putting it, it should be the elegant and otherworldly green colored flame on his palm.

This kind of strange phenomenon was like the subjects deferring to a king.

“When the ‘Heavenly Flame’ appears, all flames submit. This remark is indeed true.” As he eyed the strange phenomenon in the open ground, Fa Ma, who was on the high platform, sighed gently. He had seen such a spectacular scene once when he was young. He did not expect that he would actually be able to witness it again, at this moment.

Chapter 318: Failure

The strange scene that had suddenly appeared on the open ground was also out of Xiao Yan's expectations. He eyed the numerous stunned gazes that were shot toward him and could only helplessly shrug his shoulders. With a shake of his hand, he threw the green colored flame into the medicinal cauldron. Only at this point did the flames in the competitor's hands return to normal.

"This fellow." The Little Princess softly mumbled. She was a little depressed. Having never witnessed the strength of a 'Heavenly Flame', she had always thought that her 'Dry Blue Water Flame' was not much weaker than it. However, with the supernatural display of her flame just now, any observant person would be able to tell on sight that it was far beneath the 'Heavenly Flame'. Otherwise, it would not display this kind of subservient manner.

Compared to the Little Princess dispiritedness, Liu Ling's face was slightly ugly. The brown colored flame was something that his teacher had invited numerous strong people in order to obtain from a rank five Magical Beast's body, which was similar to a human of a Dou Wang class. It was really unexpected that before it gained any limelight after being displayed today, it actually saluted another person's flame. This really caused him to be speechless.

"Humph. What is the use of having a good flame? If one is unable to control it, one would only end up incinerating himself by playing with fire." Yan Li let out a soft cold laughter as he placed the black colored flame on his hand into the cauldron.

As the strange phenomenon disappeared on the open ground, all the competitors also gradually pulled back their minds, returning them to focusing on the examination question they were facing. The flames on their hands were poured into the medicinal cauldron. After which, all of them took out their medicinal ingredients and began the first step of refining medicinal pill, purifying.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the medicinal cauldron. Occasionally, he would wave his hand and throw one or two medicinal ingredients from the stone table into the medicinal cauldron. After which, he controlled the temperature of the flame and slowly refined the necessary essence needed to refine the medicinal pill according to the information that was recorded on the medicinal formula.

Although there was a very detailed medicinal formula in his mind, Xiao Yan did not dare to be even the slightest bit careless. There were only three sets of medicinal ingredients that had been prepared this time around. If he lost a medicinal ingredient because of a careless mistake, it would significantly raise his chances of failure in refining. This was something that Xiao Yan could not accept. Therefore, he did not dare to throw in all the medicinal ingredients in at once despite his ability to control the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'. Instead, he chose the safest method of refining only two medicinal ingredients at a time.

There were quite a number of people who shared Xiao Yan's thinking. This included Little Princess, Liu Ling. Even that Yan Li, who had always been arrogant, was currently adopting a serious expression as he carefully controlled the flame, meticulously refining each medicinal ingredient. Everyone clearly knew just how heart breaking it would be to lose a medicinal ingredient at such a moment.

All the competitors on the open ground maintained silence. Only a crackling sound was emitted as the flames refining the medicinal ingredients reverberated throughout the open ground.

Being infected by this kind of quiet atmosphere, the originally somewhat noisy seats on both sides also gradually quietened down. All their gazes roamed over the alchemists on the open ground below.

"They have indeed all hid something. The young people these days..." Nalan Jie, who was seated on the VIP seats, eyed the rising flame on the open ground below and could not help but smile as he said, "But seeing the strange phenomenon just now, it looks like little friend Yan Xiao is better than the rest."

“A ‘Heavenly Flame’ is a strange object that even elder Gu He never possessed. Its power is naturally something that those flames of Little Princess and the others, which were obtained from Magic Beasts, could not be compared with.” Nalan Yanran by the side smiled as she replied.

“Ke ke, that’s right.” Nalan Jie nodded his head. After which, he abruptly turned it to Nalan Yanran and said with a frown, “Was the person from the Misty Cloud Sect who came this morning asking you to return?”

“Yes.” Nalan Yanran nodded slightly.

“Ah.” Nalan Jie sighed gently. His voice was somewhat low, “Is it because the Three Year Agreement is approaching?”

Hearing this, the wrist which Nalan Yanran used to push aside her black hair abruptly stilled. She pursed up her red lips and softly said, “That should be part of the reason.”

“Xiao Yan has already vanished for nearly two years. I have told you before that when he left Wu Tan City, he had already agglomerated and formed his Qi vortex and become a Dou Zhe. This was done in less than a year. You should also clearly know how difficult it is to raise one’s Dou Qi before one becomes a Dou Zhe. Yet, he once again rose suddenly in a lightning like manner in less than a year. In other words, the training talent that had strangely disappeared back then has once again appeared.” Nalan Yanran let out a long sigh. He said in a deep voice, “During these two years, there has been no information about him. However, I think that according to his training talent, I’m afraid that he would at least be at the Dou Shi class.”

Nalan Yanran nodded her head.

“Ah, I don’t want to say anymore. You won’t listen even if I said them. However, I hope that you will apologize to him regardless of who wins or loses in the Three Year Agreement.” Nalan Jie rubbed his forehead and said somewhat tiredly.

“Apologize?” Hearing this, Nalan Yanran knit her eyebrows slightly together. Immediately, she stared at Nalan Jie somewhat stubbornly. “I did no wrong! Why should I apologize.”

“You could have easily privately went to the Xiao clan and nicely ask Xiao Zhan if he could cancel the wedding engagement. Perhaps, all of these problems would not have happened if you did that, but you deliberately chose to borrow the strength of the Misty Cloud Sect and forcefully pressured the Xiao clan into cancelling the engagement. You clearly know just how great a blow this was to the Xiao clan’s reputation. It is just that as your status grew increasingly prominent during these few years, you were unwilling to open your mouth and apologize.” Nalan Jie looked at his granddaughter indifferently and said, “But do you know that if things continue on like this, it will only deepen the gap between you and Xiao Yan.”

“Even if the gap did not deepen, he and I can never be together. Since it is impossible, then it does not matter if the gap deepens.” Nalan Yanran frowned and waved her hand to stop Nalan Jie. She softly said, “Grandfather, you don’t need to bother about my matter. In any case, once the Three Year Agreement is over, he and I will no longer have any interactions from then on. It is not as though no one is interested in your granddaughter, why do you repeatedly think about him? Alright, you should stop talking. Let’s relax and watch the competition.”

Once she said those words, Nalan Yanran turned her head and threw her gaze onto the open ground. A faint Dou Qi covered her ears, clearly not wanting to hear Nalan Jie’s nagging.

Seeing this manner of hers, Nalan Jie was helpless even though he was somewhat furious. Moreover, since this was a public place thus, he could only glare angrily at her before helplessly turning to gaze at the open ground.

At this moment, nearly half an hour had passed since the start of the examination. Some of the alchemists on the open ground who needed to refine less medicinal ingredients had already completely refined all of them. Additionally, they had also began preparing for the next step.

Xiao Yan ignored those participants who had completed their refination and was totally focused as he stared at his medicinal cauldron. His left hand would occasionally throw a medicinal ingredient in while his right

hand hurriedly sucked out the ingredients in the medicinal cauldron that had been refined before storing them into jade bottles.

While Xiao Yan was kept busy this way, some perspiration gradually appeared on his forehead. He did not bother to wipe it off as he threw in the last medicinal ingredient on the stone table into the medicinal cauldron. Over ten minutes later, he carefully took out the last ingredient that had been refined and stored it into his jade bottle.

Seeing that the refining process was this smooth, Xiao Yan finally heaved a long sigh of relief. He turned his head and looked around. With some surprise, he discovered that Little Princess, Liu Ling, and Yan Li had actually not completed their refinement.

“Tsk tsk, looks like the tier of the medicinal pills that they want to refine isn’t going to be low. Although the quantity of the medicinal ingredients does not represent the tier of a medicinal pill, those that required more ingredients to be refined and more complex in nature usually belong to a higher tier.” Xiao Yan shook his head slightly and rested for a moment. After which, he adopted a serious expression as he began the next step to fuse the ingredients into a pill.

The green colored flame slowly rose within the medicinal cauldron. His pupils stared intently at the leaping flame seedling. A moment later, his hands abruptly began dancing. One bottle after another, the ingredient essences that he had refined earlier were being orderly thrown into the medicinal cauldron by him. The flame seedling immediately pounced forward, wrapping those medicinal ingredients in an instant.

Closing his eyes, Xiao Yan’s turbulent Spiritual Strength was emitted from between his eyebrows. At this moment, his Spiritual Strength appeared to be out in force, each of the subtle reactions from any portion of the fusing ingredients within the medicinal cauldron would be instantly transmitted into his mind. After which, he would swiftly compare it with the reaction recorded on the medicinal formula to decide if the direction of the refining process was correct.

As Xiao Yan began to merge and form a pill, the Little Princess, Liu Ling,

and Yan Li had also completed refining their ingredients one after another. Without any rest or unnecessary words, they quickly placed the ingredients that they had refined into the medicinal cauldron and similarly began the step of fusing them into a pill.

There were some soft muffled sounds being occasionally emitted on the large open ground. These sounds were something that alchemists were very familiar with. This was because each time they failed in refining a medicinal pill, this kind of vexing sound would appear. Following which, there would occasionally be some dejected faced competitors leaving the competition ground. Therefore, the original hundred plus competitors on the open ground was gradually being reduced.

This Grand Meeting was like a sieve with quite a large hole, eliminating those small sized and weak competitors. Those who had the qualification to remain after being filtered for a couple of rounds were naturally among the top of the younger generation.

Time slowly passed by. Some of the competitors on the open ground who originally had calm expressions also began to pant a little. Such a huge burden and consumption really caused people to become tired.

“Can you see which of the medicinal pills that they are refining are of a higher tier?” Hai Bodong slowly walked to a spot behind Fa Ma, eyed the open ground and inquired softly.

“I can’t tell now.” Fa Ma shook his head and voiced his thoughts, “However, it is still possible to spot some clues when the pills are about to be formed. When a tier four medicinal pill is taking shape, it will emit its own unique pill fragrance. The more concentrated the pill fragrance is, the higher the grade of the medicinal pill being refined. When a tier five medicinal pill is about to be formed, a substantive energy ripple will appear out of nowhere due to the large energy that is being contained within the pill.”

Hai Bodong nodded his head slightly and ceased questioning. His hands were placed behind his back as he quietly waited for the results of the competition.

Half an hour passed by under the expectations of countless of people. On the high platform, Fa Ma's expression suddenly changed and a joy surfaced on his old face. His gaze eyed the direction Xiao Yan was at. At that spot, a faint pill fragrance was being emitted and spread from the dark red cauldron.

"This little fellow is so fast in forming the pill? The 'Heavenly Flame' is indeed extraordinary."

The faint medicinal fragrance that was being spread from within Xiao Yan's medicinal cauldron was also sensed by Little Princess, Liu Ling, and Yan Li not far away. The first two appeared slightly surprised. However, Yan Li laughed coldly with disdain after smelling the pill fragrance. According to the density of this kind of medicinal fragrance, it could not be compared with the medicinal pill that he was refining this time around. If this was the foundation of that fellow, then the champion spot this time around would undoubtedly belong to Yan Li.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the green colored medicinal pill that was ceaselessly rolling within the medicinal cauldron. He sniffed the pill fragrance that drifted around and shook his head slightly. An ordinary 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' would have difficulty attaining victory.

"I can only go all out," Xiao Yan sighed softly. He suddenly inhaled a deep breath that contained some of the medicinal fragrance in the air. His right hand then swiftly took out a pale purple Danwan from his storage ring. After which, he squeezed it into his mouth and chewed. At the same time, he abruptly withdrew the Spiritual Strength controlling the green colored flame. As he did so, the originally turbulent green colored flame quietly became small with a 'puff' sound. The instant when the green colored flame was about to disappear, Xiao Yan opened his mouth and a cluster of purple colored flame flew out, finally pouring into the medicinal cauldron.

"This little fellow is actually thinking of refining the second line?" Seeing Xiao Yan's action, Fa Ma, who had just sighed in relief, suddenly felt his heart become tense. He also knew that if Xiao Yan wanted to obtain victory, an ordinary 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' was insufficient.

However, when refining the ‘Three-Line Green Spirit Pill’, the most difficult point to grasp was the time when the flame needed to be changed. It should be known that even when Fa Ma refined it back then, he had failed two to three times before succeeding. Xiao Yan, on the other hand, had merely obtained the medicinal formula for one night. There were many crucial details that were impossible for him to thoroughly understand and grasp. After all, regardless of how much talent he had, it was impossible for him to completely study a tier four medicinal formula in such a short time.

“Little fellow, be careful. You don’t have many chances.”

Fa Ma softly muttered In a certain instance, his expression abruptly changed. He suddenly sensed that the originally calm flame within Xiao Yan’s cauldron had suddenly become disorderly. This was the mistake that most easily appeared as well as most difficult to avoid during the change between flames.

Fa Ma’s gaze stared intently at the middle of the open ground. At that spot, the medicinal cauldron’s purple colored flame appeared to be about to rush out of the containment of the cauldron’s cover. The temperature of the surrounding air around the stone table had also been grilled until it became somewhat illusionary.

After creating such a big activity, countless gazes from the audience seat immediately turned over. When they saw Xiao Yan’s perspiration filled red face, they all took soft breaths.

“Ah, it has failed.” Fa Ma sighed softly after a while as he felt that increasingly violent fluctuations. His old face had some bitterness.

After Fa Ma’s sound fell, a muffled ear-piercing sound was suddenly emitted from the medicinal cauldron in front of Xiao Yan. The purple colored flame were suddenly extinguished. Faint black colored ashes came pouring out of the medicinal cauldron.

“Ah.” Hearing that muffled sound, the audience on the seats at both sides let out a wave of regretful sighs.

Chapter 319: I Am Going To Be The Champion!

Hearing the ear piercing muffled sound, the Little Princess, Liu Ling, and Yan Li who had been deeply focused on the step of fusing the ingredients into a pill were also stunned. They immediately turned their heads over and eyed the direction that Xiao Yan was in. When they saw the black colored ashes pouring out from the medicinal cauldron, each of their expressions were a little different.

“Ah.” The Little Princess sighed softly. Xiao Yan was originally the one with the greatest ability to fight with the grey-robed young man from the Chu Yun Empire during this Grand Meeting. However, seeing this unexpected situation, it appeared that...

“Since you have withdrawn, then it all relies on me. I will represent the Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist scene and defeat that fellow. I will let everyone know that even if you aren’t up to the task, that fellow will not be able to snatch away the champion’s spot!” Liu Ling tightly pressed his mouth together and tightened his fist. Although he felt some pity in his heart, most of his feelings were joy. Ever since Xiao Yan had arrived on the stage, he and that mysterious grey-robed young man had undoubtedly become the competitors that had received the most attention during this Grand Meeting. Given Liu Ling’s haughty character, he did indeed feel a little resentful.

“Hei, you seem to have run out of steam. Since you have been defeated, there is no longer anyone who can stop me during this Grand Meeting! The champion spot belongs to me!” The corner of Yan Li’s mouth was lifted into a cold smile. He waved his palm and the black colored flame within the medicinal cauldron once again surged. Different medicinal ingredients were gradually beginning to perfectly merge together under the grilling of the flame.

“He has failed?” On the high platform, Hai Bodong’s expression changed slightly as he turned his head toward Fa Ma and asked softly.

“Yes.” Fa Ma nodded his head and sighed softly. Immediately, he forcefully cheered himself up and smiled as he said, “But it doesn’t matter. He still has other chances.”

Although Fa Ma spoke in this manner, his emotions was overcast and filled with with bitterness. As an alchemist grandmaster who had a vast amount of experience, he clearly understood just how great a difficulty it was for Xiao Yan to obtain victory under such a situation. From the manner in which he changed the flames just now, it was clear that he was extremely unfamiliar with the means of changing the flame in use with another. If this was his limit, then it was likely that the result of the remaining two tries would not be much better.

Moreover, Xiao Yan only had three tries, which meant that the pressure he was under was already quite great. After this failure, the pressure that he carried would undoubtedly be multiplied. Even some of those very experienced high tier alchemists would have difficulty recovering their composure in such a short time when they were under this kind of high degree of pressure.

However, this was a competition and not an ordinary refining of medicine. Currently, time was extremely precious. It could not accommodate one to waste it. Therefore, if Xiao Yan were to drown in this failure for too long, it represented that the him who did not have sufficient time would lose his qualification to fight for the champion spot.

Therefore, the current Fa Ma could only pray in his heart, hoping that this young man who had been performing quite well could have the admirable ability to withstand a blow. As long as he could swiftly pull himself back to his peak condition from his failure, his chances would not completely disappear. At the very least, with the blessing from the heavens, some strange thing may happen. The chances of such a thing happening may be so small, to the point that it would make everyone speechless, but at the very least, it was like a wisp of a dying flame light within the darkness, giving people a kind of expectation and hope.

“Ah, little fellow, currently you can really only rely completely on yourself. Additionally, this is a barrier on your path to refining pills. If you

break through it, the benefit it will have on you in the future will be beyond what you can imagine, but if you fail, you might end up being forever stalled at your current level in the future.” Fa Ma softly muttered as he eyed the young man who was staring at the dark black ashes on the rock table with a gaze that was filled with low morale.

“Break through and change for the better, or sink into the abyss. Paradise or hell is completely dependent on your thoughts.”

The gazes of everyone present were currently eyeing that young man in the middle who did not do any other actions. After a long while, they discovered that he did not even make the slightest movement. It appeared that this person, who was the greatest hope in everyone’s heart to contend with the mysterious alchemist from the Chu Yun Empire had currently descended into the dead end of his failure. Therefore, waves of disappointed sighs were involuntarily emitted from the audience seats.

“Looks like the blow of this failure is quite a great one for him. Ah, but it is not unexpected. He’s a young person...” When he heard the hissing sound from the surrounding, Nalan Jie shook his head and softly sighed.

Nalan Yanran knit her eyebrows slightly together. A moment later, she softly said, “From the way he appears, it doesn’t look like... he doesn’t look like someone who is extremely impatient. Perhaps he has some other plans?” The words of Nalan Yanran were clearly something that even she was uncertain of. Therefore, she paused for a couple of times as she spoke and did not dare to use any affirmative words.

“I also hope that’s true, but...” Nalan Jie fondled his beard and bitterly laughed. However, he did not complete his sentence.

Xiao Yan’s body was stiffened as he stood in front of the rock table. His dark pupils were staring at the black colored soot that was pouring out. His originally intelligent and calm eyes currently appeared somewhat at a loss. Ever since he had lost Yao Lao, this was the first time that he had met a difficult problem that took him by surprise. He did not expect that the equilibrium point needed when changing flames would actually be this difficult to grasp. In the past, he appeared to have overestimated his

abilities.

“This time around, it’s going to be troublesome. Teacher, what should I do now.” As Xiao Yan’s mouth trembled, a soft inaudible voice that contained a perplexity was softly emitted from it.

Unfortunately, Yao Lao was currently in a deep slumber. He did not know of the difficult problem and the feeling of loss that Xiao Yan faced. Therefore, as Fa Ma had mentioned, Xiao Yan really have to rely on himself for everything.

Transform and evolve or sink into destruction?

Although Xiao Yan had become silent, the time for the competition did not stop just because of his importance to the competition.

A short distance away, Yan Li, Little Princess, and Liu Ling were gradually progressing into the steps where they intensified the heat. The wisps of pill fragrance that were emitted from the medicinal cauldrons also pulled over the gazes of the audience, who were originally focused on Xiao Yan.

When nearly half the time allocated for the competition had passed, the medicinal cauldrons of the three of them had a medicinal pill that had taken an initial shape and were already gradually being solidified. After a while, a dense medicinal fragrance was first emitted from the Little Princess’ medicinal cauldron. When they sniffed the richness of the medicinal fragrance, the alchemists who still remained behind the rock tables immediately exclaimed, “Tier four medicinal pill?”

When she heard the waves of astonished voices sounding around her, a proud expression involuntarily appeared on the Little Princess’s pretty face. The medicinal pill in the cauldron was the only tier four medicinal pill that she was confident in refining. Moreover, it still possessed some chances of failure. It was fortunate that her luck today was quite good and she had actually succeeded in refining it on her first attempt. If one were to discuss about luck, she appeared to have much more than Xiao Yan.

However, the shocked sounds did not persisted for very long. The medicinal cauldron on the other side belonging to Liu Ling quickly

followed her's and emitted an even richer and more attractive medicinal fragrance. Two pill fragrances were individually rising from each medicinal cauldron and finally blended together on the open ground, making it difficult to tell them apart.

Despite this, the alchemists with a strong perception would be able to differentiate these two pill fragrances apart immediately. The grade of the medicinal pill that Liu Ling was refining was a little higher than the one Little Princess was refining.

"This fellow." The Little Princess who had quite a good perception was similarly able to differentiate the pros and cons of the two kinds of medicinal pills. Immediately, she frowned slightly. With her eyes, she violently cut Liu Ling who was smiling at her.

"Haha, Yue-er, I'm sorry. Allow me to take the lead today." When faced with the depressed eyes of Little Princess, Liu Ling faced her and cupped his hands together as he replied with a smile.

"Two kinds of tier four medicinal pill. These two little fellows are also quite good." On the high platform, Fa Ma's heavy heart was a little better when he sensed the pill fragrances that were rising from the medicinal cauldrons belonging to Little Princess and Liu Ling. He nodded his head and spoke.

"Ha ha, you two little fellows who are wet behind their ears. Isn't it a little too early to be actually preparing to celebrate at this time?" A strange laughter suddenly sounded from the side. It swiftly pulled over the Little Princess's and Liu Ling's furious eyes, only for them to discover that the flame was burning intensely within Yan Li's cauldron. After a while, a fragrance that actually carried a pale-purple color was quietly rising like that of smoke.

"A colored pill fragrance?" As they eyed the pale purple pill fragrance, almost all the alchemists in the open ground began to cry out involuntarily, clearly understanding what this represented.

"He is actually able to refine a medicinal pill that produces a colored pill fragrance? This bastard. He had really come prepared." The smile on Fa

Ma's face, which had surfaced only a short while ago, had instantly become overcast under the pale-purple pill fragrance.

"What's a colored pill fragrance?" On the high platform, Hai Bodong hurriedly asked as he saw Fa Ma's expression suddenly become extremely ugly.

"A colored pill fragrance is usually only produced by a tier five medicinal pill. Of course, some of the peak tier four medicinal pills can also create such a thing. Seeing the richness of his pill fragrance, I think that the medicinal pill that he is refining belongs to the latter." Fa Ma's face was dark as he said, "Compared to his, the tier four medicinal pills that Yue-er and Liu Ling are refining are undoubtedly inferior."

"This time around, I'm afraid that we will definitely lose."

In the open ground, Little Princess and Liu Ling were dully staring at the colored pill fragrance that was rising from Yan Li's medicinal cauldron. Their expressions instantly became despondent and pale as they bitterly laughed. In the face of absolute superiority, any excuses would appear to be extremely weak.

"That is yet to be certain." A young clear faint laughter suddenly sounded.

The sudden faint laughter caused Little Princess and Liu Ling to become stunned. Immediately, they turned around, only to find that Xiao Yan, who was standing like a wooden pillar behind the stone table had unknowingly raised his head once again. That face which usually appeared very cold, currently had an extremely rare gentle smile.

The Little Princess and Liu Ling stared at the smile. For some unknown reason, they were somewhat in a trance as they discovered that the current Xiao Yan appeared to have something more compared to the past. There appeared to be some sort of change in his temperament and self-confidence.

"I'm sorry. Chairman Fa Ma." Xiao Yan turned his body around and bowed toward Fa Ma on the high platform as his lips move slightly. He knew that with the latter's ability, he would definitely know what was

being said.

“Ke ke, it is good that you can recover.” Fa Ma was momentarily at a loss as he eyed the soft smile on the young man’s face below. Immediately, he nodded, feeling comforted.

Xiao Yan smiled gently and turned his body around. He tilted his head and eyed Yan Li, who was staring at him in a dark and cold manner. With a smile, he lifted his thumb, only to invert it under the full view of everyone.

“I am going to be the champion!”

Chapter 320: Rising Once Again

“Hei, so what if you’ve recovered. You want to refine a medicinal pill that surpasses the one in my cauldron during the remaining time which is half of the allocated time? Ha ha, you should do things within your means. Otherwise, you will only be a joke to others. Ha ha.” Yan Li laughed coldly as he eyed Xiao Yan and mocked him.

Xiao Yan smiled, but ignored his mocking words. With a gentle wave of his hand, a breeze blew away the dark black soot on the rock table. He flicked his finger gently and a huge amount of medicinal ingredients once again completely filled the rock table.

Xiao Yan’s body was as straight as a pen as he stood in front of the rock table. His hands were slowly extended. After a short silence, a green colored flame seedling rose from his body and adhered to the surface of his clothes. Not long after the first wisp of green colored flame seedling appeared, clusters of flames began to continuously surge from within Xiao Yan’s body. Finally, the green colored flame had actually completely wrapped Xiao Yan within. The raging green colored flame rendered him into a green colored flame person.

“Are those all ‘Heavenly Flame’? Just how much spiritual strength is needed to control so many of these ‘Heavenly Flames’?” All of the alchemists on the open ground involuntarily inhaled a breath of cold air as they eyed Xiao Yan, who had almost become a flame person, with stunned gazes.

During the time that the green flame was rising on Xiao Yan’s body, Little Princess and Liu Ling, who were preparing to extract their pills, were also shaken until they were stunned. Yan Li, who was on another side may have controlled his expression well, but his eyelids also began twitching at this moment. He could not understand why this young person was able to display an ability that shocked and surprised everyone after experiencing such a blow.

“This little fellows Spiritual Strength seems to be much stronger than

before.” On the high platform, Fa Ma’s comforted voice carried some envy as he watched Xiao Yan whose entire body was wrapped in flame, feeling surprised. “He chose the correct path earlier and obtained a breakthrough under pressure. This kind of powerful Spiritual Strength is something that even some of the elders in the association have difficulty comparing with. He gained quite a lot this time around!”

It was common knowledge that the Spiritual Strength of an alchemist could not be actively trained with a purpose. It can only slowly become more powerful over time. Of course, there is nothing absolute in this world and there are always exceptions for everything. In this large Dou Qi continent, there are those lucky people who were able to enter various strange conditions due to their luck. Under these kinds of extremely mysterious conditions, those lucky people obtain the reward of having their Spiritual Strength increase greatly. Currently, the one that Xiao Yan had displayed was extremely similar to that kind of condition. Thus, even an alchemist grandmaster like Fa Ma could not help but be a little envious.

“Does he still have any chance of victory?” Hai Bodong fondled his beard and smiled as he asked.

“I don’t know.” Fa Ma shook his head slightly and let out a soft sigh, “I will still stick to that line of mine. Everything would have to rely on Yan Xiao’s performance. Although Yan Xiao’s current condition is spectacular, but the other party is not a simple person. I’m afraid that there will be another very close and fierce competition.”

“He is about to begin the refinement.” Hai Bodong nodded slightly as his eyes that were watching the open ground abruptly brightened.

On the open ground, Xiao Yan, whose entire body was wrapped within the flame, slowly raised his hand. A surging green colored flame violently rushed out from his finger. Immediately, it was poured into the medicinal cauldron. In just the blink of an eye, the turbulent flame had already begun writhing and burning within the cauldron.

As he watched the flame within the cauldron, Xiao Yan flicked his finger gently. A few medicinal ingredients on the stone table were skillfully

thrown into the medicinal cauldron at the same time. Immediately, the green flame pounced on them, wrapping them up and began to wildly burn and refine them.

This time around, Xiao Yan's refinement was clearly much faster than what it was a moment ago. Moreover, he no longer had any cautious feelings nor any fearful movements of his limbs as he performed his task. When he controlled the 'Heavenly Flame', he no longer had the slightest hesitation. A leisured and unforced imposing presence faintly appeared whenever he gestured and moved. This kind of presence would usually only appear on those extremely experienced alchemist grandmasters like Fa Ma.

One by one, the medicinal ingredients were thrown in by Xiao Yan. After which, his other hand would control the refined essence of the ingredients within the cauldron and stored them into jade bottles. Under the condition where he used both his hands together and released his Spiritual Strength to its peak, the medicinal ingredients that were placed on the rock table were swiftly being turned into the essence ingredients needed to refine the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' at a gratifying pace.

Xiao Yan, who had once again cheered up and began refining, had undoubtedly raised the atmosphere of the open ground to the climax. The Little Princess and Liu Ling, whom many had placed their hopes on after Xiao Yan's earlier failure, had performed poorer than Yan Li due to their weaker abilities. In this kind of situation where everyone was about to see the other party become the champion of their country in front of their eyes, the recovery of Xiao Yan, whom everyone had placed the greatest hopes in before, had undoubtedly caused the countless people in the audience to sigh in relief. Therefore, the countless gazes from the seating areas at both sides of the open ground were currently focused on the human figure on the open ground who was wrapped in the green colored flame. A deafening cheer resounded throughout the place.

"Hmph." Hearing the noisy cheer, Yan Li's dark and cold pupils drifted toward the direction Xiao Yan was at. He eyed the graceful and smooth refining manner and a surprise and solemnness finally flashed across Yan

Li's eyes. From the other party's Spiritual Strength which had suddenly become much stronger as well as his graceful presence, Yan Li clearly understood that this young person had not only recovered from the blow he received from his failure, and also obtained a breakthrough of his mind from such a hopeless situation. This kind of mental strength was really terrifying.

"This fellow does indeed have some foundation. It is just that I don't know just which old fellow is able to teach such a student. Looking at his performance, it was clear that he is much more outstanding than Gu He's disciple. Hei, the reputation of Pill-King Gu He is not entirely true. At the very least when it came to teaching, he is far inferior to another." Yan Li coldly laughed in his heart. He turned his gaze toward the flame raging in his medicinal cauldron. From the transparent mirror of the medicinal cauldron, he could clearly see that an initially formed medicinal pill was rotating within the flame.

"Soon, I am about to succeed." As he eyed the initial formed of the medicinal pill which was about to be completed, Yan Li braced up his spirit. Pride faintly surfaced on his tender face. He definitely had absolute confidence in the medicinal pill which he had refined!

Xiao Yan's hands, which were wrapped within the flame, were repeatedly shifting toward the rock table. Following their swift movement, the medicinal ingredients on the table were quickly reduced. On the other side, the number of jade bottles that contained the essence of the ingredients were increasing.

Currently, the medicinal pills that Little Princess and Liu Ling had refined were already formed. They beckoned with their palms and the medicinal pills shot out from the medicinal cauldrons and were stored into jade bottles. They eyed the colored pill fragrance which was repeatedly seeping out from Yan Li's medicinal cauldron and the both of them let out a soft depressed sigh. Immediately, they lifted their heads and turned their gazes toward the position Xiao Yan was at. Currently, he had become the only one who had some chance of surpassing Yan Li.

The question of which party would obtain the champion spot of the Jia

Ma Empire's Alchemist Grand Meeting this time around, was up to the ability Xiao Yan displayed.

However, if any person were able to see under the green colored flame where no one could discover what was happening, they would definitely become stunned. This was because, Xiao Yan, who appeared to be in his peak condition to those of the outside world, was currently closing his eyes and frowning slightly. At one glance, it was as though he had descended into a: half-asleep, half-awake, mysterious condition.

Although Xiao Yan's eyes were indeed closed, his senses were able to clearly see every single occurrence in the outside world even more clearly than what his eyes could. His surge in Spiritual Strength within the medicinal cauldron had even caused him to be able to clearly see how the medicinal ingredients were gradually fragmented and broken after being burned by the flame, leaving behind the necessary kinds of ingredient essence under the high temperature.

Xiao Yan slowly smoothed out his breath in his heart. He could clearly sense that the refining of pills this time around was the first time that he had not relied on Yao Lao and yet displayed his peak and perfection. Under this kind of condition, Xiao Yan even had the confidence to challenge a tier five alchemist.

None of the medicinal ingredients which were covered by the green colored flame were even slightly damaged as the temperature of the 'Heavenly Flame' changed with Xiao Yan's desire. At this moment, he had even managed to control its temperature to exactly match the one recorded in the medicinal formula.

"The purification is complete." At one instance, the medicinal ingredient on the stone table were finally completely refined. Only then did Xiao Yan slowly open his tightly shut eyes. His body stilled for an instant before he abruptly waved his sleeves. A force shook and broke all the twenty over jade bottle in front of him. Following which, a shapeless force sucked the ingredient essences within them and threw them all into the medicinal cauldron. The flame once again became turbulent at this moment.

This time around, the time needed for Xiao Yan to refine the ingredients had been reduced by nearly half compared to the last time.

A green flame writhed within the medicinal cauldron. The twenty plus ingredient essences were completely wrapped within Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength and were slowly being merged.

Like flowing water, time quietly passed by. At this moment, there was merely less than an hour left until the time when the examination would end. On the other side, the colored pill fragrance that was emitted from Yan Li's medicinal cauldron was growing increasingly rich. The medicinal pill that he had refined was clearly about to be formed!

"The Three-Line Green Spirit Pill is about to succeed."

Fa Ma was staring intently at the open ground when he suddenly softly said at a certain instance. However, his face did not reveal any appearance of being relax. He knew that it was impossible to defeat Yan Li by just relying on an ordinary Three-Line Green Spirit Pill!

The medicinal cauldron in the open ground where the green flame was rolling suddenly became quiet. A faint pill fragrance was scattered and a green colored round medicinal pill that was like an emerald was repeatedly rotating within the cauldron.

As the medicinal pill rotated, the green colored flame that was covering the surface of Xiao Yan's body suddenly began to shrink swiftly. In the blink of an eye, the green colored flame began withdrawing into Xiao Yan's body like the tide. At the moment when the green flame within the cauldron was about to be completely withdrawn, Xiao Yan's chewing mouth was abruptly opened. A purple colored flame was once again violently spurt out before it was poured into the medicinal cauldron.

Fa Ma's heart was suddenly raised as he saw Xiao Yan once again spurt out the Purple Flame. His eyes stared intently in the direction where Xiao Yan was at.

If Xiao Yan were to once again fail this time around, the champion position would completely miss him. At the same time, the reputation of the Alchemist Association would be damaged because of this.

Chapter 321: Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill

The Purple Flame abruptly poured into the medicinal cauldron. At this moment, Xiao Yan's expression had turned extremely serious as he swiftly pressed his hands over the cauldron's flame outlet. His Spiritual Strength surged forth without being held back. The current him must be able to perfectly control the change between the two kinds of flames. Otherwise, something similar to his failure the last time around would once again appear.

If Xiao Yan were to fail once again during the less than an hour remaining, there would be no miracle and the result would be Yan Li becoming the champion.

On Xiao Yan's forehead, concentrated cold sweat gradually appeared. After which, the sweat rolled down, dripping into his dark eyes which were wide open. Xiao Yan, however, did not dare to blink despite the sour feeling.

The Spiritual Strength that poured out without any reservations was like a floodgate that had been lifted. The rolling waves like the flow of a river howled as they flooded the medicinal cauldron. Under the suppression and guide of Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength, the green colored flame from earlier did not come into the slightest contact with the purple colored flame. Additionally, even the heat contained within the flame was also wrapped and isolated by Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength.

Within the medicinal cauldron, the situation had turned into something like two groups standing opposite each other with a river between them. The green and purple flames each took one side while the Spiritual Strength formed a river in the middle where the green colored medicinal pill was still slowly spinning. If the flames' temperatures were to exceed the suppression of his Spiritual Strength, it would cause a collision between them. Even if the force created was not too strong, it would be more than sufficient to destroy this weak medicinal pill which had yet to

be formed. Xiao Yan's failure the last time was due to this reason.

Using the lesson he had learned from the last time, the current Xiao Yan split his concentration into three portions. One was used to suppress the Purple Flame and another was used to lead the Green Flame to withdraw from the other fire outlet. The most important of the three was used to maintain the appropriate temperature between the two opposing flames in order to keep the heat grilling the medicinal pill as needed. Otherwise, the refinement would end up in failure.

Splitting his concentration into three; if Xiao Yan's condition had not become spectacularly good after the odd state he went into earlier, the current Xiao Yan would be unable to complete this kind of operation that would be extremely tricky to even a tier five alchemist. Of course, even if he could barely succeed, the perspiration repeatedly rolling down his face was but only the impact on the surface. This kind of controlling method was extremely exhausting on one's Spiritual Strength.

"Withdraw!" The standoff was maintained for ten seconds within the medicinal cauldron before Xiao Yan's hand abruptly shook on the surface of the medicinal cauldron. Following a clear sound, the green flame within the medicinal cauldron completely moved along the flame outlet and was whisked out.

Xiao Yan did not have the leisure to control the green colored flame that had escaped. At the moment when the green flame withdrew, the purple colored flame, which had been waiting for a long time immediately pounced wildly onto the medicinal pill like a violent tiger that had descended from the mountains.

"Suppress! Suppress! Suppress, damnit. I want you to fall!" Xiao Yan's pupils stared intently at the purple colored flame that had pounced onto the medicinal pill. Blood stains even surfaced in his eyes at this moment. His heart was a little crazy as he repeatedly cried out in a soft and hysterical manner. At the same time, his Spiritual Strength was crazily suppressing the Purple Flame's temperature.

The first step after the change of the flame was to suppress the new

flame's temperature, maintaining the same temperature as the flame that had left earlier. Otherwise, the sudden increase or decrease in heat energy would only result in one ending, failure.

This was something that particularly tested an alchemist's control over the flame's temperature. Even the slightest mistake would result in a tragic end.

Under waves after waves of the suppression by the Spiritual Strength, the temperature of the Purple Flame continued to descend wildly as it covered the mere twenty plus centimeters from the medicinal pill.

As the Purple Flame eventually descended to the required temperature, the flame finally came into contact with the repeatedly rolling green colored medicinal pill. Immediately, the Purple Flame submerged the pill within it.

"What is he trying to do?" All the gazes within the place were dazed and confused as they watched the panting Xiao Yan, whose head was completely covered in perspiration. Was the medicinal pill not already successfully refined?

"What exactly is this fellow refining? He actually needs to change the flame? This is something that even Teacher is not confident of!" The delicate hand of the Little Princess patted her chest. Earlier, the red-eyed and green-faced manner of Xiao Yan was really somewhat shocking. Looking at the situation now, however, it was fortunate that the most dangerous moment was already successfully overcome.

"I don't know what he is refining, but I think that the tier of the medicinal pill will definitely not be lower than ours." Liu Ling's face was somewhat flushed red. When he recovered, he realized that he had actually forgotten to breathe when he was watching Xiao Yan's soul-stirring change of flame.

"Hu. He has succeeded." On the high platform, Fa Ma, whose heart had been raised to his throat, finally exhaled a long breath at this moment. From his senses, he could tell that the flame within Xiao Yan's medicinal cauldron had completely calmed down and did not even show any signs of

revolt as it did the last time. Based on this situation, Xiao Yan was not far from successfully refining a 'Two-Line Green Spirit Pill'.

"His potential is really very terrifying. He may have succeeded because of the current wondrously great condition he is in, but the talent needed to swiftly grasp the trick with the changing of flame after just one failed attempt is really extremely shocking." Fa Ma watched the wildly panting young man who was supporting himself on the stone table with one hand while the other was controlling the flame. He suddenly turned his head, stared at Hai Bodong and said with a smile, "If this fellow were given enough time, I think that his achievement would far surpass us old fellows. It has been a very long time since the Jia Ma Empire produced an epic level strong person who could shake the continent."

"I have never doubted him." Hai Bodong smiled and waved his head. His knowledge of Xiao Yan far surpassed that of Fa Ma's. This fellow could create the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' that could seriously injure a Dou Huang. What else could he not do?

Moreover, Hai Bodong would never forget that under the disguise of this ordinary looking young man was actually a youth that was not even twenty years old.

"Next, we should just quietly wait." Fa Ma's gaze drifted toward Yan Li, who was focused on refining the medicinal pill. A worry still existed between his eyebrows. Even though Xiao Yan had refined a 'Green Spirit Pill' that had two lines, there was still some unknown risk if he wanted to beat that medicinal pill of Yan Li, which the exact details of it were currently unknown. However, he currently knew that Xiao Yan had really put in all his effort. Therefore, he could only listen to the fates.

"Not only did he not sink under such a setback, but instead he managed to search for a break through from such a hopeless situation. What a terrifying mental strength. Given time, this fellow will definitely shine." Nalan Jie fondled his beard gently. He eyed Xiao Yan who had become stronger and spoke softly with a sigh. Each time when others thought he had reached the limit, Xiao Yan would give everyone a huge shock.

“He is indeed very strong.” Nalan Yanran nodded her head slightly. In so many years, it was the first time that she felt an admiration for someone of her age group. She knew that if she ended up such a situation, she definitely would not become dispirited. However, if she wanted to go all out and gain a breakthrough under that kind of situation where her entire body and spirit were emitting a powerless feeling, there was only one word to describe it: Difficult.

Nalan Yanran’s bright eyes swept at the young man who was supporting himself on the stone table. Although he was currently panting wildly, his waist remained very straight like a pillar that would not collapse. Nalan Yanran’s pupils which were faint like autumn water suddenly and quietly gained something.

On the open ground, Yan Li’s expression was serious as he stood in front of the stone table. His gaze was staring intently at the medicinal cauldron. The earlier commotion from Xiao Yan’s direction did not escape his notice. Although he was shocked at the way Xiao Yan changed the flame, he did not feel anything else. He did not know what kind of medicinal pill Xiao Yan was trying to refine by changing flames, but he had absolute confidence with the medicinal pill that he was refining!

“Regardless of how you struggle, the champion spot is mine! You are not allowed to fail. Similarly, I cannot fail!” Yan Li abruptly clenched his fist tightly as he cried softly within his heart. This time around, he had risked his life to arrive at the Jia Ma Empire by himself. As long as he was able to become champion and give a huge blow to the reputation of the Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist Association, the position of the chairman of his country’s association would open its arms for him once he returned. When that time comes, his position within the Chu Yun Empire would rise steeply!”

“Everything is for power! Come out, my masterpiece!”

Yan Li’s palm abruptly slapped onto the medicinal cauldron as he suddenly raised his head and let out a roar. The cauldron’s cover flew up and a large cluster of dark black flame swarmed out in all directions from within the medicinal cauldron. In the middle of the dark black flame, a

purple colored glow shot forth. In an instant, it caused that black colored flame to be riddled with holes.

Following the glow that was shot out, a rich purple colored pill fragrance slowly rose. Finally, it acted like a fog with a spirit, forming a purple colored cloud in the space above Yan Li's head.

“What a dense colored medicinal fragrance.” As they eyed the purple colored pill fragrance which was sufficient enough to cover the entire rock table, the corner of the mouths of all the alchemists on the open ground twitched as they muttered.

After watching the purple colored pill fragrance with gloomy expressions, Little Princess and Liu Ling exchanged glances. Their eyes had an uneasiness. Seeing the degree of richness of the pill fragrance, the medicinal pill that Yan Li had refined was definitely among the peak of the tier four medicinal pills. Currently, it appeared extremely difficult for Yan Xiao to defeat him.

“Ha ha, ha ha!” The black flame in mid air was slowly extinguished. A purple colored medicinal pill the size of a dragon's eye was rotating as it appeared under countless gazes. Yan Li beckoned with his hand and the purple colored medicinal pill flew into his palm. As he held the medicinal pill, he finally could not resist emitting a wild laughter.

“Ha ha, the ‘Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill’ is finally successfully refined. This is a medicinal pill that is comparable to a tier five medicinal pill. How will any of you compete with me? Ha ha.”

Yan Li's wild laughter reverberated through the air of the open ground causing the two sides of the VIP seats to immediately descend into a momentary silence. After a while, numerous gazes which had quickly become heated stared intently at the purple colored medicinal pill in Yan Li's hand.

“‘Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill’, a peak tier four medicinal pill. It is similar to the ‘Three-Line Green Spirit Pill’. This also belonged to the class of medicinal pills that are able to directly raise people's strength. However, its effect is only useful at the Da Dou Shi class. If anyone belonging to this

class consumed the ‘Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill’, it would let the person raise his strength by one star. Additionally and most importantly, a person could take two such medicinal pills one after another when in the same class without producing too much of a resistance to the medicinal pill. In other words, as long as one is able to collect two ‘Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill’, one would be able to steadily raise one’s strength by two stars.” On the high platform, Fa Ma narrowed his eyes as he spoke in a soft and slow manner, describing this medicinal pill which had quite a high reputation in the alchemist world.

“How unexpected. I did not think that this Yan Li would actually have such boldness. The chances of failure when refining the ‘Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill’ would not be much less than the ‘Three-Line Green Spirit Pill’. However, he actually really dared to refine it on such an occasion. He should know that if he were to fail, he would definitely not be able to walk out of the Jia Ma Empire.” Fa Ma shook his head and softly sighed. At this point, his heart was like dying embers. This was because even if Xiao Yan were to successfully refine a ‘Green Spirit Pill’ that possessed two lines, it would be difficult to compare with the ‘Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill’ that Yan Li had.

Although a ‘Two-Line Green Spirit Pill’ could also help raise the strength of the person consuming it by two stars, there was some chances of a backlash. This was sufficient to deter many people from taking it. Therefore, if one were to choose between the two medicinal pills, many people would choose the ‘Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill’ and not the ‘Two-Line Green Spirit Pill’.

“Unless...”

As he thought of that possibility, Fa Ma suddenly mocked himself and shook his head. When Hai Bodong by the side saw the way the former acted, he frowned slightly and inquired, “Unless what?”

Fa Ma let out a long sigh. He raised his eyes and glanced at Hai Bodong, “Unless Yan Xiao is able to refine the highest grade ‘Three-Line Green Spirit Pill’. In other words, it means that he must take out the third type of flame!”

“But can a person possess three types of flames?” Fa Ma’s heart was filled with bitterness as he muttered. “或许也不是完全的没有希望”海波东微微耸了耸肩，望着广场中的青年，轻声道。

“Three type of flames, huh...” Hai Bodong softly mumbled as he raised his head and sighed. The abruptly cold and hot thick white flame that he had seen Xiao Yan had used back then gradually appeared in his mind. He clearly remembered that the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ back then was created by the merger of a green colored ‘Heavenly Flame’ and a thick white ‘Heavenly Flame’. In other words, there was actually a ‘Heavenly Flame’ more terrifying than that green colored flame which he had yet to display, hidden in Xiao Yan’s body.

“Perhaps this is not entirely hopeless.” Hai Bodong shrugged his shoulders, eyed the young man in the open ground and softly spoke.

Fa Ma bitterly shook his head, treating Hai Bodong’s words as an attempt to comfort him.

In the open ground, Xiao Yan stared at the purple colored round and sleek medicinal pill. Currently, a green and a purple Pill-Line had already appeared. Conversely, it meant that he had already successfully refined a ‘Two-Line Green Spirit Pill’.

“So it’s the ‘Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill’.” Xiao Yan slowly turned his head over and watched Yan Li who was wildly laughing. He was able to sense the gazes of Little Princess and the others shooting at him. It appeared that they thought that Xiao Yan no longer had a chance.

“Ah, damn Grand Meeting, it really frustrates people.” Xiao Yan sighed softly as his eyes stared at the purple colored flame within the cauldron. Suddenly, his mind became black. A long while later, he finally gently rubbed the dark black ancient looking ring on his left hand. Inside it, there was the ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ that Yan Lao had stored before he descended into a slumber”

“Teacher, sorry to disturb you.” Xiao Yan slowly bowed. After which, he straightened his waist. The finger which Xiao Yan wore the black colored ring on was gently placed over the flame outlet of the cauldron. He closed

his eyes slightly and softly muttered, “Come forth, ‘Bone Chilling Flame’.”

Chapter 322: Cauldron Explosion

Following Xiao Yan's soft mutter, the dark black ring on Xiao Yan's finger was quiet for a moment before it suddenly trembled gently a moment later. A faint icy cold feeling began to shroud the tip of Xiao Yan's finger, causing the joint of his fingers to become slightly white.

The Purple Flame within the medicinal cauldron appeared to have sensed something and it actually began to dance around uneasily. It was fortunate, however, that there was the absolute suppression from Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength. Therefore, its uneasy movement did not cause any problems.

At that moment Yan Li's unrestrained laughter on the open ground gradually weakened, these gazes which were thrown on the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill' were once again shot toward the direction where Xiao Yan was at. Currently there was only him still refining on the entire stage. The remaining alchemists had all either chosen to admit defeat or had long since withdrawn from the competition. After all, in front of the peak tier four medicinal pill that Yan Li had refined, they did not have the ability to oppose fate and make a comeback with a result that would shock everyone.

Yan Li ceased his tossing of the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill' in his palm. He crossed both of his hands in front of his chest and coldly smiled at Xiao Yan's last struggle before his defeat a short distance away.

On the high platform, Fa Ma, whose expression was originally slightly dark, frowned slightly. He lifted his head and looked in the direction where Xiao Yan was at. As the highest tier alchemist of the entire place, he could naturally be able to swiftly sense the flame changes in the area where Xiao Yan was at.

"What has happened? Why is the flame in the cauldron beginning to show signs of agitation and uneasiness?" Fa Ma muttered, clearly at a loss. At that moment, his expression abruptly changed drastically. His eyes, which were staring at the medicinal cauldron in front of Xiao Yan

suddenly shrunk. At that spot, he appeared to have vaguely seen a somewhat white colored thing. Moreover, a coldness was actually slowly seeping out from the medicinal cauldron.

“Cold air?” He sensed the temperature of the entire open ground had suddenly fallen, Fa Ma’s expression changed once again. The current him was totally confused by this sudden situation that had occurred.

“The temperature here has fallen. What a dense cold air. It can actually affect such a vast area. Don’t tell me it is created by Old Man Ice?” Jia Lao had unknowingly come to Fa Ma’s side and said as he looked at Hai Bodong beside him in a strange manner.

“If I am able to spread the cold air throughout the entire place without the both of you sensing my actions, I’m afraid that I would have long been of the Dou Zhong class.” Hai Bodong rolled his eyes. In his heart, he clearly knew that this cold air should be due to Xiao Yan starting to use that thick white colored ‘Heavenly Flame’. Back then, he had exchanged blows with this kind of flame and clearly understood the terror of this thing. It contained an extreme heat in the extreme cold. It was an extremely great headache when one had to handle it.

“No, that’s not it. That cold air seems to be emitted from Xiao Yan’s medicinal cauldron.” Fa Ma shook his head and said in a deep voice.

“What is he doing? Creating cold air when refining a pill? Isn’t he afraid of extinguishing the flame in his cauldron? Don’t tell me that fellow decided to break everything and give up?” Jia Lao frowned and said.

“No. Given his character, he would definitely not do such a silly thing. I think that he should have another intention.” Fa Ma shook his head. From what he knew of Xiao Yan, it was impossible for the him to think that the latter was giving up on himself.

“Little fellow, what exactly are you doing?” Fa Ma let out a soft sigh as he stared at the young man in the middle of the open ground.

The trembling of the dark black ring had become increasingly intense. Following the intensity of the shaking of the ring, Xiao Yan’s Spiritual Strength was once again out in force, ready to control the Purple Flame’s

withdrawal from the medicinal cauldron at any moment. Of course, neither of these two flames really belonged to him. Therefore, the changing of flames this time around would be much more difficult compared to the last time. However, with the experience of his success the last time and his strange condition which was so good that it could not be better, Xiao Yan still had quite a lot of confidence in himself.

“Teacher, help pray for me.” Xiao Yan slowly exhaled. His finger, which was slightly bent at the flame outlet, extended abruptly. His dark black ring once again trembled. A thick white colored flame suddenly surged forth. At this moment, the surrounding temperature around Xiao Yan once again descended.

“Withdraw!” Xiao Yan let out a low cry in his heart. At the same time that the thick white flame surged into the medicinal cauldron, the purple colored flame was swiftly being lead out from the other flame outlet on the other side in an orderly manner. After which, it slowly disappeared.

“Raise temperature.” In a lightning like manner, Xiao Yan’s Spiritual Strength wrapped around the thick white flame which had surged into the medicinal cauldron. His feet violently stomped on the ground and a couple of crack lines began spreading out from there. Perspiration fell from his forehead as though it was raining. The alchemist robe on his body was instantly drenched. Fortunately, the workmanship of the robe was extremely good and it was able to absorb perspiration completely absorbed all of the perspiration on the surface of his skin. It was due to this that Xiao Yan did not appear to be in an overly terrible state.

Under the control of his Spiritual Strength which was released entirely, the temperature of the thick white flame began to swiftly rise. At one point, it finally wrapped around the green colored medicinal pill under Xiao Yan’s heavily burdened eyes.

Although Xiao Yan did his best to raise the temperature of the cluster of ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ that wrapped around the medicinal pill, the remaining flames that were not suppressed still repeatedly emitted a cold icy air. Fortunately Xiao Yan had already wrapped the medicinal pill within the flame whose temperature had been raised. Therefore, the

writhing cold flame did not bring about too much trouble for Xiao Yan. All of these, however, were merely temporary.

As the 'Bone Chilling Flame' was writhing within the medicinal cauldron, threads of white cold air seeped out from the cauldron's interior. Finally, it covered the medicinal cauldron until it became slightly blurry.

"What is he doing?" The Little Princess and Liu Ling looked at the cold air that was being spread out and then faced each other. Their faces appeared totally lost. Since Xiao Yan had extended his finger into the flame outlet when using the 'Bone Chilling Flame' and cold air came pouring out afterwards, even the Little Princess and the others who were a short distance from Xiao Yan still remained ignorant that a third flame was being changed within the ordinary dark red cauldron.

"What a strange cold air. It clearly is icy cold yet why does a probe using my Spiritual Perception tell me that it is as hot as a flame?" Yan Li eyed the cold air and said with a frown as he held the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill' within his hand. For some unknown reason, he began to feel uneasy at this moment.

"There's no need to worry. I don't believe that this fellow is able to do something in the less than half an hour time that remains." Yan Li gently rubbed the purple colored medicinal pill. Currently, only this little thing gave him a steadfast feeling.

"Buzz." A strange sound suddenly caused Xiao Yan to be at a loss while his gaze stared intently at the round medicinal pill within the cluster of thick white flame.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept over the rock table and finally paused on the dark red medicinal cauldron. That buzzing sound was emitted from the it.

Xiao Yan frowned. Just as he was puzzled, a minute cracking sound caused his expression to suddenly sink. He twisted his neck as his gaze paused on the dark red cauldron. His eyes had suddenly shrunk to the size of a pin-hole.

He noticed that a tiny crack line had quietly began to spread from the cauldron's sleek exterior!

“A cauldron explosion is about to occur.” Xiao Yan’s throat moved slightly as he eyed that tiny crack line. His mouth suddenly felt a little dry. After the change of three different kinds of flames, this cauldron had finally reached the limit that it could endure and was about to blast apart. Xiao Yan, who had always neglected finding a good cauldron had finally realized for the first time how a good medicinal cauldron was not the type of unneeded external object to an alchemist as he had imagined.

“This is troublesome.” Perspiration once again slowly rolled down on his face. Xiao Yan did not expect that such a comical scene would actually appear at the last moment.

Not long after the first cracking sound appeared, the second one followed closely. After which, the third and fourth followed. In merely an instant, the medicinal cauldron, which was originally in good condition, was actually covered in tiny crack lines. Through the crack lines, Xiao Yan could even see the dancing thick white flame within it.

“Heavens.”

As the Little Princess and the others were a close distance from Xiao Yan, they sensed something not long after that ear-piercing cracking sound appeared. When they saw Xiao Yan’s face which was covered in cold sweat, everyone exclaimed. Who could imagine that this fellow would actually cause his cauldron to reach a point where it was about to explode.

On the high platform, the corner of Fa Ma’s mouth twitched. He had imagined many methods in which Xiao Yan would be defeated. However, he had never thought that Xiao Yan would fail because of a cauldron explosion, a method that caused people to be speechless.

A long while later, Fa Ma finally shook his head with bitterness. He said softly, “Ah, it’s over. What exactly was this little fellow doing during this last period of time? Before this, the medicinal cauldron had to endure that high temperature. Now, there is suddenly so much cold air. Adding this to the low quality of the cauldron, it would be surprising if the cauldron did not explode.”

Hai Bodong frowned slightly. He was much clearer about the whole story

compared to Fa Ma. It was likely that Xiao Yan had intended to use the thick white flame to refine the 'Green Spirit Pill' until it reached the 'Three-Line' grade, but had accidentally overlooked this little problem. However, it was this little problem that determined who the champion spot belonged to at such a crucial moment.

"Ha ha, your medicinal cauldron is about to blow apart. Just what can you refine?" Yan Li was stunned as he watched the medicinal cauldron which was covered in crack lines. After being at a loss for a moment, he could not resist slapping the rock table as he laughed uncontrollably. Seeing how he had lost himself, it was clear that he had received quite a serious shock over Xiao Yan's mysterious actions earlier.

Xiao Yan ignored the voices and gazes from the outside world. His head was filled with perspiration as he tried his best to preserve the medical cauldron from further damage. Unfortunately, he was an alchemist, not a blacksmith. Therefore, even after he had put in all his effort, he could only helplessly watch the medicinal cauldron gain increasingly large crack lines.

When the crack lines on the medicinal cauldron had expanded until they reached their limit, the rate at which the crack lines that were spreading came to a stop. It was quiet for a moment before a turbulent white colored cold air abruptly surged out from the crack lines of the cauldron, completely wrapping the entire stone table within.

The moment the cold air appeared, the medicinal cauldron began to swell. Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the increasingly large medicinal cauldron. At the instant before it exploded, he suddenly slapped a spot at the bottom of the medicinal cauldron violently while his eyes were crimson in color.

"Bang!"

The medicinal cauldron which had already reached its limit finally burst apart with a bang with this slap from Xiao Yan.

An intense explosion reverberated throughout the open ground. Countless medicinal cauldron fragments shot in all directions, frightening

the surrounding alchemists as they hurriedly pulled back.

“Ha ha ha ha. I have already said that the champion spot is mine!” Yan Li laughed wildly. He had finally completely relaxed as he eyed the stone table which was covered by a white colored cold air.

On the entire open ground, only the remnant explosion sound and Yan Li’s wild laughter could be heard. Everyone else had quietened down. Failure by Xiao Yan was a foregone conclusion.

Chapter 323: The Final Victor

The huge open ground was entirely quiet. A long while later, waves of regretful sighs sounded from the audience seats on both sides.

“Ah.” The Little Princess gently patted the dust that had shot over onto her sleeves. She raised her head, eyed the white colored fog permeating from the spot Xiao Yan stood and shook her head with a soft sigh. No one had expected that the biggest dark horse of the Grand Meeting this season, who could contend with that mysterious young man, would actually end up failing for such a ridiculous reason.

“This time around, the reputation of the association will really suffer a big loss.”

“Ha ha, Chairman Fa Ma, since Yan Xiao has already failed, please announce the final result for the Grand Meeting!” After Yan Li laughed wildly for a good while, he finally suppressed the unrestrained joy in his heart. He lifted his head and laughed as he watched Fa Ma and the others in front of the VIP seats.

“What should we do?” Hai Bodong frowned slightly. A faint dark and cold killing intent appeared and disappeared on his face. He stared at Yan Li below in a deep manner as he softly asked.

“What else can we do? Don’t tell me that we can kill him in front of everyone?” Fa Ma’s expression was similarly ugly. However, the current him did not have any other choice.

“If I knew that this would happen, the old me would have done it last night...” Jia Lao cut with his hand as he coldly said.

“Ah, it would also be troublesome killing him. That fellow has seized our weakness of not being able to expose his identity.” Fa Ma shook his head and sighed. He smiled bitterly and said, “Looks like we can only let him become the champion. It is impossible for the association to retain him forcefully because of some non-existing reason in front of so many people’s eyes.”

Hearing this, Hai Bodong's and Jia Lao's eyebrows knit together into deep frowns. They exchanged glances, but did not have the slightest solution. Immediately, they could only gloomily nod their heads.

Fa Ma slowly walked forward. His gaze swept through the open ground. The helplessness in his voice was something that anyone could clearly hear.

"According to the rules of the Grand Meeting, whoever managed to refine a medicinal pill which is the most useful and of the highest tier would become the final victor. Although Little Princess and Liu Ling both refined tier four medicinal pills, the grade and usefulness of those pills are all inferior to the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill' that Yan Li had refined. Therefore..."

The air above the huge open ground was entirely silent. Only the helpless voice of Fa Ma's slowly resounded.

"Therefore, the victor for this season's Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Grand Meeting..."

With both his hands crossed in front of his chest, Yan Li smiled as he watched the gloomy faces of Fa Ma's three man group and stretched his lazy waist. The current him could almost imagine how sought after he would be once he returned to the Chu Yun Empire. When that time comes, there would no longer be anyone who would be able to fight with him for the position of the chairman of the association.

"The victor is Yan..." Fa Ma slowly closed his eyes. He finally ground his teeth and uttered the last few words.

"Wait!"

A sudden cry abruptly sounded on the open ground, interrupting the words that Fa Ma was about to say.

Countless gazes moved toward the direction of the voice. Finally, all of them locked onto the stone table which had been wrapped in a white colored cold air. The earlier cry was emitted from that place.

Not long after the voice sounded, the white colored fog that had covered

the surroundings of the stone table slowly became faint. A long while later, the white colored fog had already become so faint that it could no longer conceal the things within it from other's sight. The scene within the interior also appeared in everyone's eyes.

There were already quite a number of crack lines that had appeared on the hard green stone table due to the earlier explosion of the medicinal cauldron. The area above the stone table was also a complete mess. As the gazes shifted slightly toward the front of the stone table, there was a young man whose clothes were in pieces. His right hand was supporting himself on the stone table as he panted, releasing coarse air. On the surface of his body, there were faint blood traces which were likely caused by the fragments that had shot out from the sudden explosion of the cauldron earlier.

Seeming to have sensed the final thread of cold air disappearing, the young man lifted his somewhat pale ordinary face and spoke with a hoarse voice to Fa Ma on the high platform, "There should be around ten plus minutes until the end of the competition, right?"

"There are fourteen minutes!" Fa Ma nodded and replied as he eyed the extremely weak Xiao Yan.

"Yan Xiao, even your medicinal cauldron has exploded. What can you do even if you still have ten plus minutes remaining? Don't tell me that you are going to find a new medicinal cauldron now and start refining from scratch? Ha ha! I advise you to just admit defeat. This wishy washy manner is not how a man should act." Seeing Xiao Yan appearing once again, Yan Li could not resist mocking.

"Having the ability to fight yet choosing to shrink back is what a man should not do." Xiao Yan smiled faintly. He tilted his head a little and coldly laughed with a ridicule contained in the corner of his mouth, "Moreover, who told you that I need to refine from scratch again?"

"What do you mean?" The smile on Yan Li's face gradually withdrew. He eyed the mysterious manner of Xiao Yan and shouted a little uneasily.

Xiao Yan did not reply to Yan Li's loud demand. Under the tens of

thousands of gazes around the open ground, he slowly lifted his right hand. His palm was slightly curled and a suction force abruptly surged violently toward the sky.

The tens of thousands of gazes followed the direction of Xiao Yan's palm and slowly moved upward. Finally, they were all stunned as they paused on a flower of white colored flame floating in the sky.

Since the color of the flame was similar to that of the clouds, it was hard to discover that it was a cluster of burning white colored flame unless one made a careful observation.

This cluster of white colored flame was a cluster of 'Bone Chilling Flame' that Xiao Yan had skillfully used to wrap around the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' and sent it flying into the air with a slap on the bottom of the medicinal cauldron just before the medicinal cauldron blew up. Through this method, he allowed the medicinal pill to avoid the impact from the exploding medicinal cauldron.

In that pressing final second, he was actually able to be unruffled in the face of imminent danger and think of this method to head off a disaster. This was something that caused Xiao Yan to even feel some admiration for himself. The seemingly reckless slap actually managed to reverse the crucial situation of the entire Grand Meeting.

"This is?" Fa Ma eyed the cluster of white colored flame in the sky, feeling stunned. He could faintly sense that the area surrounding the flame contained an icy cold air. Of course, the most important thing was that in the middle of the flame, there was actually a green colored medicinal pill that was partially concealed.

"Haha, looks like it is really a little too early to be discussing defeat. A miracle will always occur at the very last moment. Additionally, such a thing is never lacking on this fellow." Hai Bodong sighed in relief within his heart as he watched the cluster of white colored flame. He just knew that Yan Li's ability seemed to be a little lacking if he wanted to defeat that little monster.

"What a little fellow. I have indeed underestimated him! However, why

does he have to create so many twists and turns every time he participates in a competition?” Jia Lao clapped his hands and smiled as he praised.

Fa Ma also shared the same feeling as he nodded. If one did not have a strong mental strength when watching this fellow compete, one would likely really be toyed with until one was dead. With just this one competition, the hearts of an unknown number of people were lifted only to be let down and then lifted once again.

“What a terrifying fellow. At that very last moment, he could actually think of such a method to preserve the entire medicinal pill. Ah, it is impossible to not admire him!” Nalan Jie fondled his beard and was full of praises.

Nalan Yanran’s chest gently rose and fell. She let out a long stuffy breath of air that had been suppressed within her chest and nodded slightly. Immediately, her white hand wiped off the cold sweat on her forehead without leaving a trace. She did not expect that the competition which had reached a foregone conclusion currently begun making such a huge reversal.

“What is that thing?” Yan Li’s expression was dark as he watched the white colored flame in the sky. Compared to before, an even greater uneasiness shrouded Yan Li’s heart.

Within the open ground, the white colored flame in the air began to swiftly descend under the suction force that Xiao Yan had emitted. Following its descent, the white colored flame on its surface began to swiftly disappear. The green colored medicinal pill within it also became increasingly obvious.

When the medicinal pill was merely half a meter from Xiao Yan’s palm, the flame finally completely disappeared. A green colored round medicinal pill accurately landed in it.

Xiao Yan pulled his hand back. Lowering his head, Xiao Yan looked at the green colored medicinal pill in his palm which he had undergone numerous twists and turns in order to successfully refine it. Finally, he could not resist raising his head and inhale the somewhat icy air.

The medicinal pill was entirely green and was around the size of a dragon's eye. On the surface of the round pill, there were three lines, one green, one purple, and one white, which were arranged in an extremely orderly manner. As Xiao Yan held the medicinal pill, he could even sense the surging energy contained within it.

"I have finally succeeded." A relieved smile surfaced on Xiao Yan's pale face. Ever since he learned the skill to refine medicine, this was the first time that Xiao Yan had expended such a large amount of Spiritual Strength to refine a medicinal pill.

"Has he succeeded? What tier is it?" Seeing the smile on Xiao Yan's face, the Little Princess and the others nearby could not resist opening their mouths and asking. Due to the cold air, this 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' did not even release any pill fragrance when it was frozen by the icy cold air. Therefore, Little Princess and the others did not know the exact information of the medicinal pill that Xiao Yan had refined. Of course, even without the pill fragrance being emitted, they were not foolish enough to think that it was some kind of low tier medicinal pill.

Xiao Yan laughed softly. His gaze swept over the dark faced Yan Li, who was a little restless and uneasy. He lifted the green colored medicinal pill high in the air, glanced Fa Ma and the others on the high platform while his clear voice resounded on the entire open ground.

"Tier four medicinal pill, 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill'!"

"Ha ha, good!"

Eyeing the young man below who had raised the medicinal pill with his hand while he cried out in a clear voice, Fa Ma could no longer resist the excitement in his heart and laughed out loud in a gratified manner.

"Three... Three-Line Green Spirit Pill?"

The voice that was carried to Yan Li's ear was like thunder that suddenly exploded within his heart. His ears were buzzing. The originally proud expression on his face had instantly become pale. His gaze lacked life as he stared at the green colored medicinal pill in Xiao Yan's palm. With weakened legs, he finally landed on his backside as he sat on the ground.

Even though the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill' was extremely strong, Yan Li clearly knew that a 'Three Line Green Spirit Pill' with Three Pill Lines was much higher tier!

The champion spot which was about to become his had once again transferred to someone else in less than five minutes.

This was a miracle.

A miracle created by a young man who was not even twenty.

Chapter 324: Evaluation

Other than Xiao Yan's somewhat weak yet bright laughter, the entire huge open ground did not have any other noise. Anyone who had heard of the name 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' stared at the young man in the competition ground with stunned expressions. Who would have expected that this young man with such an ordinary appearance was actually able to rely on his own ability and at the very last moment, snatch back the champion spot which was about to fall into another country's hands.

"Heavens. He was actually refining the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill'. No wonder he needed to change the flame a few times." The Little Princess involuntarily covered her mouth with her delicate hand. Her voice was filled with a shock that was difficult to hide. As an alchemist, she had a clearer understanding than the audience about just how terrifyingly difficult it was to refine and how terribly high the chances of failure were.

"This fellow was actually hiding a third type of flame?" The corner of Liu Ling's mouth twitched. His eyes were filled with an astonishment that was difficult to hide. In order to refine a 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill', one needed three different types of flames. However, the flames which Xiao Yan had used earlier were merely the green colored and purple colored flame. Clearly, the latter had hid his ability until the very last moment.

Since the situation had suddenly taken a dramatic turn and arrived at this moment, Little Princess and the others clearly knew that if the medicinal pill in Xiao Yan's hand was really a 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill', the champion of the Grand Meeting this time around would definitely steadily land in his hand. Although the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill' could be consumed twice, the intense attraction of 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' which could leap three stars forward was enough to cause anyone to be willing to take the risk!

If a 'Two-Line Green Spirit Pill' was to be compared to the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill', it was likely that many people would choose the latter as the price they had to pay for both were the different despite a similar ability to elevate one's strength. However, if the former was

changed to a 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill', the result would be entirely different. This was because the attraction of being able to leap three stars forward would cause many people to take the risk and give it a try.

Although there was merely a difference of raising a person's strength by one star between the two pills, it should be known that the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' was also useful to a Dou Ling. On the other hand, the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill' was merely useful to a Da Dou Shi. On this point, the latter was already much inferior to the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill'. Therefore, the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' would undoubtedly obtain victory when comparing between the two types of medicinal pill!

Hence, Xiao Yan would be the final victor and the champion this time around!

On the high platform, Fa Ma had shrunk his eyes. However, anyone could see that a smile that was difficult to hide had appeared within those eyes which were usually filled with indifferentness. Fa Ma let out a hearty laugh and once again swept his eyes over the entire open ground. He stared at the pale faced Yan Li, who was seated with his butt on the ground. With laugh, he said, "I think that everyone should have heard of both the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' and the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill'. In that case, I don't think that I need to say anything regarding which of them is the more outstanding, do I?"

"Ke ke, since it's like this, then I will announce that the champion of the Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Grand Meeting this season is..."

"Wait a moment!" As he heard the voice sounding by his ears, the pale faced Yan Li suddenly lifted his head and cried out sharply.

As he was being interrupted, Fa Ma frowned slightly and stared at the pale faced and red eyed Yan Li. In a cold voice, he said, "Do you have something else?"

"I don't believe that he has really refined a true 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill. I want to personally check it!" Yan Li pointed his finger at Xiao Yan and shouted.

"I'm sorry, according to the rules of the Grand Meeting, you do not have

the right to check the medicinal pill that another competitor has refined.” Fa Ma shook his head and said blandly.

“Hei, what if he took out another medicinal pill whose appearance was similar to a ‘Three-Line Green Spirit Pill’ and made up the numbers? Don’t tell me that you would still allow him to be the champion? Humph, looks like you are making things difficult because I am not a citizen of the Jia Ma Empire. However, there are many people in this plaza today. I think that not long later, the news of you, the Jia Ma Empire’s Alchemist Association, abused your right as the organizer to prevent the examination of the medicinal pill, will spread to the entire continent. When that time comes...” Yan Li coldly laughed.

Just as Yan Li’s words fell, many people on the audience seats around the place began to whisper privately among themselves. According to common sense, this request of Yan Li was not too much to meet.

TL: Now imagine if the Alchemist Association forced Yan Li to eat a pill to transform into a middle aged man

Hearing the private conversations being transmitted from the surroundings, Fa Ma expression sunk. He did not expect that Yan Li was still this recalcitrant even at this moment.

“Once the Grand Meeting is over, it will be best if I can find a chance to... once he leaves the capital.” Both of Jia Lao’s hands were inserted in his sleeves as he softly muttered.

“If he is able to leave the Jia Ma Empire alive, I don’t need to continue being this chairman.” Fa Ma’s lips moved slightly. His soft voice was filled with a thick cold killing intent that was difficult to hide. It appeared that Fa Ma was truly angered by Yan Li in order for the usually good natured him to reveal his anger. “What do we do now? Do we really let him examine it? What if Xiao Yan’s medicinal pill really does have some problems? Although the chances of this are very small, the current situation doesn’t allow even the slightest mistake to happen.” Jia Lao hesitatingly asked.

Fa Ma was silent. Although he had some confidence in Xiao Yan, it was

difficult for anyone to be certain that the interior of the medicinal pill did not suffer much damage from the medicinal cauldron explosion a moment ago.

“Chairman Fa Ma, since he needs to examine it, why don’t you let him do so? Otherwise, it would appear that we are guilty.” Xiao Yan suddenly raised his head and smiled at the Fa Ma’s group who were full of hesitation.

Hearing Xiao Yan’s words, Fa Ma was at a lost. He eyed the smiling face and mused for a moment. Finally, he helplessly spoke, “Alright. Then we will examine it. However, the person doing the examination cannot be Yan Li himself. According to the rules of the Grand Meeting, a competitor does not have the right or authority to examine the result of other people’s refinements.”

“According to the procedure, a few elders in the association will be chosen. Of course, it would naturally be inappropriate for the people doing the examination to be made up of entirely members of the association. Therefore, we will also choose a few renowned grandmasters who are independant alchemists within the Jia Ma Empire and allow them to come together and examine the results of the pill refinement. Everyone, this should be sufficient to gain your trust, no?”

Hearing this, Yan Li’s expression became gloomier. Although he wanted to say something again, he forcefully controlled himself. The current him only managed to cause Fa Ma to send people to create an examination group because he had borrowed the audience to exert pressure. However, if he were to continue making things difficult, the surrounding audience would also likely be able to see through his tricks. When that time came and everyone was roused into action, the one who suffer would be himself.

“I don’t believe that your medicinal pill did not suffer the slightest bit of damage after experiencing a medicinal cauldron explosion!” Yan Li clenched his teeth and ferociously stared at Xiao Yan a short distance away. His manner was like a desperate hungry wolf.

Not long after the rules for the examination were decided, an inspection

team consisting of seven people descended from the high platform. Most of these seven people were alchemist grandmasters who had quite a great reputation in the Jia Ma Empire. They were basically around tier four. Therefore, there were hardly any objections to them becoming the inspectors.

Under the observation from a countless number of gazes, the seven people slowly walked closer to the open ground. Xiao Yan swept his gaze over them and was somewhat stunned to discover that the one leading the group was actually Ao Tuo.

The inspecting group first came to Yan Li's side. They took the "Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill" from his hand. After which, they formed a circle and used their Spiritual Perception to probe the medicinal pill tier and to check if there were any defects.

After the inspection persisted for nearly five minutes, Ao Tuo took back the medicinal pill and threw it back to Yan Li. He then raised his head and said faintly toward the seats on both sides, "The 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill' was successful refined and there were no defects!"

"Humph. Do you still need to say such unnecessary things? Hurry up and go and examine that fellow's 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill'!" Yan Li held the medicinal pill as he urged in an impatient manner.

Ao Tuo coldly stared at him. The corner of his eyes drifted passed the 'Purple Heart Barrier Breaking Pill' that Yan Li held in his hand. A strange arc that no one could detect was suddenly formed from pulling at the corner of his mouth.

After completely examining Yan Li's medicinal pill, Ao Tuo and the others checked all the medicinal pills that had been refined by the competitors who were willing to take them out. This included Little Princess and Liu Ling. Other than the color of their medicinal pill being not very pure, there was not too much of a problem with them.

Once they had checked the medicinal pill of the Little Princess, the inspection team finally came to the front of Xiao Yan's table in front of tens of thousands pairs of eyes.

Xiao Yan gave Ao Tuo a smile and handed over the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' that was in his hand. Ao Tuo received it with both hands and softly said, "Very good little fellow. You have done well."

After receiving the medicinal pill, Ao Tuo's seven man team once again formed a small circle. Under everyone's gazes they took turns to carefully examine it. The expressions on their faces appeared somewhat grave.

"Old Mo, why don't you announce the result this time around." After the medicinal pill was passed once around, it once again returned to Ao Tuo's hand. Ao Tuo suddenly smiled and spoke to an old man whose head was snow white.

This old man who was addressed as Old Mo did not belong to the alchemist association, but his reputation in the Jia Ma Empire was quite great. This was because he was coincidentally the champion of one of the previous Alchemist Grand Meetings.

"Ah, it is impossible not to admire him. After seeing so many Grand Meetings, this season's Grand Meeting is the most soul-stirring one." The white haired old man sighed and shook his head. He suddenly turned toward the audience seats behind him. After being silent for a moment, he finally laughed faintly, "The examination has been completed. Although it is a little embarrassing saying this, I don't mind doing so. This 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' that young friend Yan Xiao has refined has reached a perfection that even I cannot achieve."

"Although this little fellow is still young, his potential is limitless. I think that surpassing Gu He in the future is entirely within reach!"

This sudden unexpected evaluation from the white haired old man directly caused the entire open ground to instantly become totally silent. Everyone's faces were astonished as they eyed Xiao Yan whose face was similarly shocked because of the old man's evaluation. Pill-King Gu He's position within the Jia Ma Empire was nearly at the peak. In the eyes of countless fledgling alchemists, he was like a huge mountain that was insurmountable!

However, at this moment, in front of tens of thousands of people, the old

man had actually seriously announced that a young man who was only around twenty would surpass this huge mountain that was difficult to climb!

Regardless of what the reason was, the name 'Yan Xiao' would from this moment forth, shake the whole Jia Ma Empire!

Chapter 325: The end of the Grand Meeting

The silence on the open ground persisted for a long time before it gradually recovered. This Old Mo had become well known in the Jia Ma Empire much earlier than Gu He, so his evaluation would naturally carry significant weight. Therefore, other than a small group of people, there were not many who felt that he was making irresponsible remarks.

Yan Li's expression was green. The evaluation of Old Mo had undoubtedly indirectly confirmed that the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' that Xiao Yan had refined did not have the slightest problem. In this case, he had completely lost this time around.

Yan Li clenched his fists and waved his sleeves, storing the medicinal cauldron on the stone table within his storage ring. After which, he did not have the slightest hesitation as he turned around and hurriedly left under the watchful gazes of countless pairs of eyes. The dark iciness that was shot from the eyes of Fa Ma's three man group had already let him understand that if he did not take the opportunity to leave now, it was likely that he would be done when Fa Ma and the others had completed everything here.

On the high platform, Fa Ma inserted both his hands into his sleeves and indifferently watched Yan Li hurry out of the open ground. He could not resist coldly laughing as he asked, "You are thinking of leaving now? Isn't it a little too late?"

"Do we need to follow him since we are not needed here?" Hai Bodong smiled and asked.

"There's no need to." Fa Ma shook his head slightly and said with a smile, "I have already instructed Ao Tuo to attach a spiritual imprint on Yan Li's medicinal pill while he examined it. He cannot run away."

"The Chu Yun Empire's Alchemist Association Will suffer a great loss this time around. It is not that easy to groom a tier four alchemist

grandmaster.” Jia Lao smiled and said. His smile was somewhat gloating.

“Since they have come, they should naturally be prepared for such consequences.”

Fa Ma smiled. He eyed the open ground and coughed slightly. After waiting for all the gazes to turn toward him, he said with a smile and a clear voice, “Since the inspection has been completed, I will now announce that the champion for this season.”

Fa Ma’s hands were extended out of his sleeves and his finger pointed at the skinny, pale faced young man in the open ground. “That person is Yan Xiao!”

As Fa Ma’s voice landed, an excited ear-piercing howl suddenly sounded from the audience seats. Countless people were so excited that their faces turned red as they stood up from their seats and waved the things in their hands. In an instant, the entire plaza had descended into a noisy and excited ocean.

It was no wonder that the audience would become this excited and wild. The contest this time around was different from the other Grand Meetings. In the past Grand Meetings, it had always been the alchemists within the empire fighting for the champion spot. Therefore, the audience did not have an overly intense feelings of uniting against a common enemy. This time around, however, Yan Li, who had suddenly become a dark horse who had almost become the champion caused these Jia Ma Empire citizens to be stimulated by their feelings of not wanting to let people from other countries take the champion spot in their own country. After all, none of them wanted to see the Grand Meeting that their own country conducted end up allowing another country, especially an enemy country, to gain the honor of being the most accomplished.

This was because the honor that those people would gain would have been built upon the shame of the Jia Ma Empire!

Just as Yan Li was about to become the champion, Xiao Yan had once again made a come back and snatched back the champion spot that was about to leave the country. From the surrounding audience’s point of view,

this action was undoubtedly a hope that was scattered down at a time when things were very bleak. Therefore, the Jia Ma Empire's citizens in the open ground being unruffled by emotion was entirely normal.

Of course, Xiao Yan, who had followed the will of the people and defeated Yan Li to become the champion, would naturally and with great ease obtain the respect and attention of countless people. After today, the name Yan Xiao would resound throughout the entire empire!

From a certain point of view, Yan Li had contributed greatly to Xiao Yan being able to obtain this kind of unexpected fame. Without the former's sudden appearance, Xiao Yan would at most be an ordinary champion in the people's hearts even if he had won. The time between the Grand Meeting held every eight years was neither long nor short. It was natural for most of the people in the audience to see the event seven times within their lifetime. Therefore, the meaning behind winning with Yan Li versus without him would be entirely different.

Yan Li's participation and failure had helped to improve Xiao Yan's reputation. The latter may not be overly concerned about his reputation, but at the very least, when people would discuss the Alchemist Grand Meeting in the future, the young man called Yan Xiao, who had once turned the tide, would appear first in everyone's mind, and their words would contain some well-deserved respect.

"Ha ha, I knew that this little fellow would become the final victor!" Nalan Jie could not resist and laughed out loud as he watched the countless respectful, worshipping, and even adoration-filled gazes pointed toward Xiao Yan, who was packing some of the remaining medicinal ingredients on the stone table, as though there was no one else around.

"Yes." Nalan Yanran nodded her head slightly. Her pretty eyes stared at the young man who appeared large on the whole field despite being skinny in size. Her indifferent face could not help but display a strange smile, "He's really outstanding!"

"He's more than outstanding." Nalan Jie smack his lips and said, "From today onward, it is likely that any groups or strengths with some ability

will begin to extend an olive branch to this little fellow. The evaluation from Old Mo earlier has really entered many people's hearts."

"What he said is true. Although I cannot say for certain how Yan Xiao will develop in the future, being able to refine a 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' at this age is something that even elder Gu He back then could not achieve." Nalan Yanran softly said. Her bright eyes rotated as she said with a smile, "If I am able to get him to join the Misty Cloud Sect, I'm afraid that his achievement in the future will be even greater than elder Gu He!"

"Hei, why? Are you planning to help the Misty Cloud Sect pull people in?" Hearing this, Nalan Jie rolled his eyes and said, "Don't say that I did not remind you. This fellow's relationship with Ya Fei from the Primer clan appears to be a little intimate. That girl is indeed a source of trouble that could cause men to undergo the most severe trials for her. It seems that there is quite a great amount of difficulty if you want to pull Yan Xiao over from her. Don't forget what kind of attitude Yan Xiao has toward you."

Hearing Nalan Jie's words, Nalan Yanran knit her eyebrows slightly together. She was somewhat vexed and uncertain. "Ah, I am also unsure what's the problem. I keep feeling that he seems to have a great prejudice toward me. When he sees me, he appears cold and indifferent, but when he is with Ya Fei or even Yao Ye, he is able to smile and chat a little. But once I join in, he directly turns into ice."

Nalan Yanran was indeed a little dispirited. If one were to compare their status, hers was much greater than Ya Fei and even Yao Ye. If one were to compare beauty, she was confident that she would not lose to the two ladies. However, Yan Xiao just ignored her. Among those chasing after Nalan Yanran, there was no shortage of those who chose to pick a different approach and purposefully acted coldly toward her. Unfortunately, these people who tried to act cold were noticed by Nalan Yanran due to their poor acting and were blacklisted. Therefore, Nalan Yanran did have some experience dealing with those who pretended to be cold. However, when faced with Xiao Yan, she had truly and completely

sensed the coldness and even hatred in the other party's words.

"He hates me?" As she thought of this, a strange expression surfaced on her pretty face. This was indeed quite a massive blow to a person like her who was favored by the heavens.

"Hmm, I don't seem to have offended him before, no?" Nalan Yanran bitterly smiled and shook her head as she muttered in her heart, "Forget about it. I'll leave the sect elders or Teacher to settle this matter. This fellow... you can just tell me what I did that has offended you."

I am also unsure why he treats you in this manner. However, when you are in contact with him in the future, try your best to soften your attitude. Don't simply bring out your identity as the young Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect to suppress people. Some men who have ability and strong character usually keep a respectful distance from women like you." Nalan Jie shook his head and said.

"When did I use my position as the young Sect Leader to suppress him?" Hearing this, Nalan Yanran could not help but feel some injustice. It seemed like she had been maintaining a courteous attitude ever since she met Yan Xiao in the Nalan clan's home.

"How would I know." Nalan Jie helplessly shook his head. He did not continue to be entangled with this question. Instead, his gaze turned toward the young man on the open ground who was being congratulated by the many people around.

Xiao Yan's palm was supporting himself on the stone table. Joyous cries appeared like a flash flood as they were transmitted into his ear. This caused him to slowly exhale, turn around, and lift his head to look at Fa Ma, who was smiling at him.

"Mister Yan Xiao, congratulations." Little Princess smiled as she walked over and spoke to Xiao Yan.

"I was merely lucky." Xiao Yan smiled and said. Once again, he had used the same excuse that he had used a countless number of times.

"In what way was that good luck? This is your true ability. Ke ke, to be

honest, even big brother Liu Ling and I admire you greatly.” Little Princess laughed softly.

Xiao Yan lifted his eyes and swept them at Liu Ling a short distance away, who was staring at the former. When Liu Ling saw that Xiao Yan had looked over, he was momentarily lost. Immediately, an ugly smile that could be barely considered as friendly appeared on Liu Ling’s face. The latter even cupped his hands together in a stiff manner. For the usually haughty Liu Ling to be able to perform such etiquette, it was likely that he had truly accepted Xiao Yan’s ability.

“This time around, there is no grievances in my loss. Once I return after this, I will focus entirely on learning from Teacher. I was really too arrogant in the past. I hope that I will still have the opportunity to compete with Mister Yan Xiao in the future.” Liu Ling walked toward Xiao Yan and softly said. After experiencing this Grand Meeting, his character appeared to have become less haughty.

“There should be such chances. This place is far too noisy. I will take my leave first. If we have the chance in the future, let’s meet again.”

Xiao Yan smiled and swept his gaze over the competition ground where he had experienced this soul-stirring competition. After which, he bid both the Little Princess and Liu Ling goodbye before walking out of the open ground as he pleased. Since the Grand Meeting was already over, it was pointless staying behind to receive the countless cheers and applause. He was still anxious to find Fa Ma and obtain the reward for the champion, the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ medicinal formula.”

“Ah, let us leave too.” As Liu Ling eyed Xiao Yan’s back which was slowly disappearing down a passageway, he helplessly shook his head and said to Little Princess. After which, he slowly followed Xiao Yan.

As the three people took turns to leave, the Alchemist Grand Meeting, which had already become the event that had attracted the most attention in the capital, finally came to a close.

Chapter 326: Obtaining the Reward

As Xiao Yan walked out of the corridor, he coincidentally met Ao Tuo's group who had been waiting for a while. The few of them smiled and chatted a little. During this time, Xue Mei injected a few sentences and the gaze that she used to look at Xiao Yan was a little strange. Lin Fei, on the other hand was stammering and did not dare speak much. Each time Xiao Yan shot his gaze over, her face would flush. The performance of Xiao Yan a while ago had shocked this energetic girl once over. The original idol in her heart, Liu Ling, was quietly kicked aside. Replacing him was the quiet and thin young man's back.

Not long after Xiao Yan conversed with Xue Mei and the others, Ao Tuo forcefully ended their conversation. After which, he led Xiao Yan out of the plaza and swiftly returned to the association. He arranged a quiet room for Xiao Yan, allowing the latter to adjust his condition first. This was because the pale complexion of Xiao Yan was weak to the point of frightening people.

Xiao Yan eyed the room's door which had been closed and could only helplessly shake his head. He eyed his hand which contained a green colored medicinal pill which Ao Tuo had stuffed toward him. Based off of the luster of the medicinal pill, it was at least a tier three. It appeared that Xiao Yan's victory this time around had indeed given Ao Tuo great joy. A medicinal pill of this grade could be considered quite precious to him. Currently, however, he had readily handed it back over.

Once he was seated cross-legged on the soft bed, Xiao Yan took the medicinal pill in his hand and pushed it into his mouth. He felt the pure energy that was swiftly being spread within his body and slowly closed his eyes, beginning to recover his spirit.

Although he had been forcefully supporting himself, the examination this time around had indeed exhausted all of Xiao Yan's strength. The consumption of his Spiritual Strength when he changed between three different types of flames was indeed overly great. If it were not because of this earlier condition being extremely good, it was likely that Xiao Yan

would have fainted due to the complete exhaustion of his Spiritual Strength before he could finish changing the flame twice.

In a flash, over five hours had passed while he was recuperating. When Xiao Yan finally woke up from his training mode and glanced at the unlatched window, he realized that the sun, which was originally hanging high in the air, was actually about to descend beyond the horizon. The warm air had also slowly turn cold.

Xiao Yan slowly exhaled and rubbed his forehead. He sensed the tiredness and drowsiness withdrawing from his mind. He was a little surprised. Originally, he thought that he would need at least a day's time in order to recover half of his energy. It was unexpected that he had nearly completely recovered during these five hours. This ought to be the effect of the medicinal pill that Ao Tuo had given him.

Xiao Yan placed his palms on the bed and used a little strength. His body leaped forward in a flash and steadily landed on the ground. He then patted his hands gently, feeling satisfied with the speed at which he had recovered.

“Creak...”

Not long after Xiao Yan descended from the bed, the room's door was gently pushed opened. Xiao Yan lifted his head to take a look, only to see a delicate and pretty young lady wearing a trainee alchemist robe carefully walking in while carrying a basin of clear water.

“Mister Yan Xiao, grandmaster Ao Tuo has instructed me to take care of you here...” The young lady was merely around fourteen or fifteen. She had a very small body, but the tight alchemist robe revealed her slim waist and somewhat bulging chest. Although she had yet to mature, she had a uniqueness about her.

Currently, her delicate, pretty, small face was a little shy and flushed. A blazing heat flashed in her bright eyes as she stared at Xiao Yan. Earlier, when she had nothing to do, she had quietly went to watch the Grand Meeting competition. Naturally, she had clearly seen Xiao Yan defeating Yan Li and turned the tides, changing the final outcome of the entire

Grand Meeting. In the hearts of the young ladies at this age, Xiao Yan was undoubtedly their hero and idol in their hearts. Even though his face was a little ordinary looking, it was filled with charm when they looked at it now.

The young girl's heart jumped for joy when she was suddenly instructed by Ao Tuo to guard this place. This was especially so when she recalled the envious gazes of her companions. The temperature of her heated eyes once again rose.

"Cough..." Xiao Yan coughed dryly as he was being stared at by a young girl in such a heated manner. When he recovered, he smiled as he received the basin. "Thanks, but I can do it myself."

"Oh." Although she felt a little regretful in her heart, the young girl did not dare to refuse. She obediently handed over the basin and stood to the side with her gaze staring unblinkingly at Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan really felt very uncomfortable at being stared at while he washed. Therefore, he simply wiped his face randomly a couple of times before asking in a somewhat helpless manner, "Young miss..."

"I...I'm called Xun-er." The young lady said with a red face.

(TL: This Xun-er is not the Xun Er from the Xiao clan)

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly, but he only asked, "Miss Xun-er, can you bring me to see chairman Fa Ma now?"

"Ah. Please follow me." The little girl who was satisfied crisply replied before turning around and leading the way from the front.

Once they left the room, Xiao Yan closely followed behind the young girl. The association's alchemists who occasionally passed by him, would stop and give the former a friendly smile. At times when the stairs were squeazy, many alchemists would even take the initiative to give way. Being treated so courteously caused Xiao Yan to be a little uneasy.

"Mister Yan Xiao, you really enjoy quite a great prestige. Normally, those people would scowl when they see us, much less give way to us..." As they once again walked past a corridor, the young girl in front of him could not resist laughing softly.

Xiao Yan smiled at these somewhat saucy words of the young girl. The world was realistic. Respect and reverence were forever left for those with the ability to enjoy it. Before this, he too did not receive such treatment when he came to the alchemist association, did he?

After following the young girl past a few more corridors, Xiao Yan finally came to a stop outside a spacious room. The young girl softly said, "This is the study of the chairman. He should be inside now. Please go in by yourself, Mister Yan Xiao."

"Thank you Miss Xun-er." Xiao Yan nodded his head and smiled as he spoke.

"There's no need..." The young girl smiled sweetly and turned around. She had taken a few steps when she suddenly turned around again and said with another smile, "Mister Yan Xiao, you are really handsome today... hee hee, goodbye."

Xiao Yan was at a loss while he eyed the young girl, who had her hands behind her back, bouncing around like a deer as she disappeared at the end of the corridor. Immediately, he let out a smile and shook his head. It appeared that the Grand Meeting had really agglomerated quite a great popularity for him. Even this ordinary looking face could actually cause the young girl to have amorous feelings for him... but it was a pity that this identity and name were false.

Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze and thoughts before he knocked lightly on the door. He waited for Fa Ma's voice to be emitted from within before he pushed open the door and entered.

Once he entered the room, Fa Ma, Hai Bo Dong, and Jia Lao, who were seated by the side of the desk, involuntarily threw Xiao Yan a smile when they saw that it was him.

"Little fellow, congratulations." As they eyed Xiao Yan entering, Fa Ma's three men group cupped their hands toward him.

"All of you should stop ridiculing me." Xiao Yan slowly walked forward and spoke with a bitter smile, "This affair nearly took this little life of mine."

“Ke ke.” Fa Ma laughed softly. He did not say anything unnecessary as his palm stroked the storage ring on his hand. Immediately, a purple-silver colored scroll appeared in his palm. Xiao Yan’s palm slowly rubbed the scroll and he said with a smile, “With effort comes reward. This is the medicinal formula for a tier six medicinal pill, ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’. Little fellow, from now on, it belongs to you.”

As he spoke, Fa Ma flicked his finger onto the scroll. The scroll turned into a silver colored shadow that shot toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan was a little excited as he received the scroll. He could not resist playing with it in his hands. The scroll was both purple and silver in color and had an icy feeling when one held it. On the bright and clean scroll’s surface, there were some complicated lines and ancient markings, giving it an aesthetic feeling when one looked at it. Xiao Yan carefully held the scroll and slowly pulled it open. He roughly glanced at the information written on the scroll and realized that what was written on it was no different from what Ao Tuo had told him. Only then did he sigh in relief.

“I advise you not to use your Spiritual Strength to read the medicinal formula here. Otherwise, you will faint on the spot. Even if it were me, a tier six medicinal formula is something that would give me a headache for quite a long time after reading it.” Fa Ma reminded as he eyed Xiao Yan’s excited manner.

“Ke ke, I know.” Xiao Yan nodded his head and carefully placed the medicinal formula for the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ into his storage ring. When he raised his head, he saw Fa Ma handing over a piece of purple colored metal plate over and could not help but feel uncertain.

“This is the token for an honorary elder of the association and is also a kind of reward for the champion. If you take this token, you can obtain help from any association branch in the Jia Ma Empire.” Fa Ma smiled and said, “I know that you do not like to be constrained by any position. This so called honorary elder doesn’t need you to do anything. It is just a hanging title. As long as you are willing, you can ignore anyone’s dispatchment, including me.”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly before receiving the token in passing.

“Alright, little fellow, you have already obtained the reward. Next, you can wander around the association or the capital. Although the Grand Meeting is over, the capital will be quite lively for a period of time. The current you is also a famous person. If you were to walk out, the people who want to be acquainted with you may well have to queue out of this city. Ha ha.” Fa Ma teased.

Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head. His gaze swept over the three of them as he suddenly asked, “You... what are you planning to do?”

“Ke ke...” Hai Bodong smiled and exchanged glances with Fa Ma and Jia Lao. He then smiled and said, “Next, we plan to go and find that friend Yan Li to discuss the price to pay for breaking the rules of the Grand Meeting...”

“A pitiful fellow who is destined not to be able to return.” Xiao Yan spread his hands. He did not think that Yan Li would be able to escape alive from the hands of Fa Ma’s three man group.

“Since the three of you have an appointment to keep, I shall not keep you. I also have some things that I must do. Goodbye...” Xiao Yan cupped his hands at the three people. He did not stay any longer as he turned around and walked out of the room.

“Ke ke, let’s go... during these two day, I have been infuriated by that fellow. Now, it is time to pay.” As he eyed the disappearing back of Xiao Yan, Fa Ma stood up from his chair and spoke with a cold smile.

Hai Bodong smiled and stood up. The three of them exchanged gazes. As their bodies shook slightly, a violent wind abruptly blew from within the room. The wind blew the books all over the place as they let out a swishing sound (books flying around). When everything finally settled down, the three people in the room were nowhere to be found.

Chapter 327: Obtaining the Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva

Xiao Yan slowly walked out of the Alchemist Association under the numerous gazes that all contained various meanings to them. He stood at the main entrance and watched the sky which was gradually becoming dark. His mind was a little blank as he did so. With the end of the Grand Meeting, his entire body had suddenly felt much more relaxed. Only without the pressure to absolutely take the champion spot could he truly sigh in relief.

“Ah, this thing really consumes too much of one’s spirit...” Xiao Yan laughed bitterly. If it were not for Queen Medusa saying that sentence back then, Xiao Yan would not be willing to desperately perform such tiring work and participate in this Grand Meeting.

As he recalled Queen Medusa’s warning, Xiao Yan’s palm could not help but quietly touch the Seven Colored Heaven Swallowing Python that was twined around his arm while it was fast asleep. He did not know if it was because of Queen Medusa growing increasingly stronger, but the current python frequently descended into a deep slumber. Occasionally, while Xiao Yan was training, his keen senses would occasionally sense that there were two spirits which were suppressing and fighting with each other within that small body.

“Ah, there’s trouble everywhere...” Xiao Yan sighed softly. Without having the ability to help the Seven Colored Heaven Swallowing Python, Xiao Yan could only watch them fight. Although the final victor in this battle would definitely be Queen Medusa, the Seven Colored Heaven Swallowing Python at least helped Xiao Yan obtain the right to be able to discuss terms with Queen Medusa.

Seeing that Queen Medusa had suddenly spoke the last time, it was likely that this ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ was extremely important to her. Although the medicinal formula was currently already in his hands, she must still rely on Xiao Yan if she wanted to have the medicinal pill refined.

Therefore, the current him need not worry about getting killed if Queen Medusa was to awaken one day.

Xiao Yan inhaled a breath of somewhat cold, moist air. He threw those chaotic thoughts out of his mind and paused slightly on the street. After which, he lifted his head and walked in the direction where the Nalan clan was at. Today was the last time that he would need to expel the poison from Nalan Jie. If everything went smoothly, he would get his hands on the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' tonight. When that time came, he would try and see if he could awaken Yao Lao by using it...

If he could wake Yao Lao up, he would have the safest protection on his journey to the Misty Cloud Sect this time around. If he failed to wake Yao Lao up, then... he could only toughen his skin and head up there. Since he had already come this far in his journey, Xiao Yan would not choose to give up regardless of what happened.

"Tomorrow will be the last idle day... if possible... ah, unfortunately, this thing also had some chances of a backlash occurring. Having successfully refined three lines on the medicinal pill, the backlash is much larger on a Dou Shi class... If my strength unluckily falls at this moment in time, it would really cause me to be depressed..." Xiao Yan pressed his lips slightly together. His finger gently rubbed his storage ring. Within it, there was the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' that had been refined for less than half a day.

Although Xiao Yan could not sense the actual strength of Nalan Yanran, it was likely that her strength would not be weaker than Mu Zhan from the sharp and imposing manner when she attacked the other night. She might even surpass him...

Mu Zhan was already a nine star Dou Shi. If Nalan Yanran surpassed him, then she should be around the Da Dou Shi class.

"Three years ago, she was merely a three star Dou Zhe. During this less than three year period of time she had actually advance to the Da Dou Shi class? Unless I have made a mistake in my judgement, it was likely that she consumed some sort of medicinal pill that could directly raise her strength during these three years. With the Misty Cloud Sect's abundant

wealth and the help of Pill-King Gu He, it was not impossible to refine such medicinal pills even though they are extremely rare. Otherwise, even if her talent was outstanding, it was impossible for her to become stronger so much faster than me..." Xiao Yan lowered his head and mused.

"Teacher's ability may be great and unfathomable, but those medicinal pills requires various rare medicinal ingredients in order to be refined. With my ability, there are many things that I cannot get my hands on. Without sufficient medicinal ingredients, Teacher would not be able to refine the medicinal pills regardless of how great his ability was... Therefore, he had been using and refining those catalytic type medicinal pill during these few years. For example, liquids that could stimulate the body's potential when applied on it despite bringing about extreme pain... However, Teacher had never made medicinal pills like those which could directly raise one's strength."

Summarizing all of the conditions of the both of them, Xiao Yan quietly felt a little relief even though Nalan Yanran strength had improved by leaps and bounds.

"Ah, we will see how it is when that time comes. If I can wake Teacher, I would not need to take the risk and consume that 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill'. If I fail to wake him up..." Xiao Yan sighed before mumbling: "Then I can only take the risk and give it a try. I have already prepared for three years just for this day. I cannot allow any blemishes which can result in my failure..."

Xiao Yan shook his head and temporary suppressed these somewhat irritating thoughts. He raised his head and glanced around. The Nalan clan's manor was already partially visible at the edge of his vision.

Xiao Yan slowly came to the entrance of the Nalan clan. After coming over daily to help Nalan Jie expel the poison during these few days, Xiao Yan had already become a frequent guest in this place. Therefore, the two guards at the front entrance did not act in an inexperienced manner and step forward to stop him. Instead, they humbly smiled at him, raised their hands and respectfully led him in.

Xiao Yan followed the small gravel path and slowly walked for a distance. After which, he arrived at the hall only to see that Nalan Jie was already waiting for him. When Nalan Jie saw the former, he smiled as he stood up, cupped his hands together and said, "Congratulations. The current you can be considered the man of the moment in the capital. There's no one who does not know you."

Xiao Yan smiled and swept his gaze over his surroundings. However, he was a little surprised to discover that Nalan Yanran who had always been around was nowhere to be found.

"Ke ke, Nalan Yanran has returned to the sect. There was someone from the sect here today to urge her to return." Nalan Jie appeared to understand Xiao Yan's uncertainty as he explained with a smile.

"Oh." On the surface, Xiao Yan smiled and nodded. However, a cold smile appeared in his heart, "The Three Year Agreement is approaching. She naturally has to return..."

"Grandfather Nalan, let's begin today's poison extraction session. This is the last time. After tonight, the 'Searing Poison' will have completely left your body."

"Ke ke. That's good. Thanks, young friend Yan Xiao. In the future, if there is anything that you need help with, you can just come to our Nalan clan. As long as I am in charge, I will definitely not reject you." Nalan Jie said with gratitude.

"Each of us is just getting what we need." Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. He followed behind Nalan Jie as they walked into a room by the side. After which, they began this last poison expelling session...

The last poison expelling session was so easy that it was a little beyond Xiao Yan's expectations. Of course, he clearly understood that this was because of his Spiritual Strength soaring during the Grand Meeting. Having experienced that kind of test, he had undoubtedly become much more capable in his control of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'.

Xiao Yan wiped off a drop of cold sweat from his face. His finger was removed from Nalan Jie's back as he eyed the latter's face which had

suddenly become much more rosy. He nodded and said, "Congratulations. The 'Searing Poison' has completely been removed from your body..."

As he said these words, Xiao Yan's mouth contained a little bitterness. The 'Searing Poison' had indeed left Nalan Jie's body, but it ended up running into his own body.

"Hu..." Nalan Jie released a long breath of turbid air. The turbid air this time around no longer had the black colored content it did in the past. It really appeared to be as Xiao Yan had said. That 'Searing Poison' has indeed been completely removed."

"I cannot thank such great kindness with mere words or deeds. The old me knows that young friend Yan Xiao is here because of that 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva', but my life cannot be compared to that plant. I, Nalan Jie, promise you that if there is ever an opportunity in the future, I will not hesitate to repay your kindness!" Nalan Jie stood up and spoke to Xiao Yan in a deep voice. From his manner, it appeared that he was extremely serious.

Xiao Yan smiled but was non-committal.

"Clap, clap!" Nalan Jie suddenly clapped his hands. A moment later, the room's door which was tightly shut, was pushed open. A female servant carried a jade flower pot which contained a plant as she walked in.

When this plant appeared, a strange scent which calmed people's spirit immediately spread throughout the entire room.

Xiao Yan sniffed the strange fragrance as his gaze instantly paused on the plant on her hand. This plant was completely green in color, appearing as if it was carved out from top quality green jade. On the top of the plant, a flower which possessed seven different colors was slowly blooming. As it did so, Xiao Yan was somewhat astonished to realize that the seven colors were actually gradually changing, giving it an extremely gorgeous appearance.

"Young friend Yan Xiao, this is the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva'. It is said that if an alchemist were to use a flame to refine it into liquid, it would enable exhausted spirits to recover swiftly. Back then, I had spent

quite a lot of effort in order to get hold of it. The reason for me getting that ‘Searing Poison’ was also because of picking this thing...” Nalan Jie laughed.

Xiao Yan resisted the excitement in his heart and nodded slightly. He licked his lips and did not allow himself to get carried away.

“Ke ke, young friend Yan Xiao, since you have already completely cured me, this thing now belongs to you.” Although Xiao Yan controlled himself very well, he could not deceive a cunning old fox like Nalan Jie as the latter smiled as he spoke.

“Thank you very much.” Xiao Yan cupped his hands together gratefully at Nalan Jie. He did not resist any longer. Taking two steps forward, he received it from the female servant’s hand. His gaze moved up and down as it watched the plant excitedly.

“Although this ‘Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva’ can be stored in the storage ring, you must let it receive an hour of sunlight everyday. Otherwise, it will automatically wither. You must remember this.” Nalan Jie reminded.

“Yes.” Hearing this, Xiao Yan nodded his head. Only then did he dare to store the ‘Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva’ in his storage ring. He turned around and spoke to Nalan Jie: “Grandfather Nalan, there are still some things that I am rushing to complete today. Since I have already finished what I need to do here, I will bid you farewell.”

“Ah? So soon?” Nalan Jie was at a loss. He wanted to persuade Xiao Yan to stay, but seeing the urgentness on Xiao Yan’s forehead, he could only swallow those words to retain him. With a smile, he said, “If there is anything you need help with in the future, you can come and find me.”

“Haha, I will.” As he smiled, Xiao Yan, who was in a hurry to wake Yao Lao, cupped his hands while facing Nalan Jie. After which, he turned around and hurriedly walked out of the room.

Within the room, Nalan Jie watched Xiao Yan who was burning with impatience, and could only helplessly shake his head. He had planned to invite the other person for dinner to lay a solid foundation for their

relationship.

Chapter 328: Awakening of Yao Lao?

Xiao Yan was in a rush as he left the Nalan clan. He wanted to quickly return to the inn where he stayed when he suddenly paused his footsteps. In order to refine the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' into liquid, he would naturally need a medicinal cauldron. That cauldron of his, however, had already been destroyed during the Grand Meeting...

Xiao Yan shook his head. He hesitated for a moment before he hurriedly walked toward the Primer Auction House. As he was afraid that he would be delayed if he met Ya Fei, Xiao Yan simply bought a medicinal cauldron that was approximately the same tier as the one he previously had from the exterior of the auction house. He then hurried back to the inn he was staying at without stopping.

With complete focus, Xiao Yan rushed back to the inn, entered his room and turned his hand around to shut the door tightly. He strode into the interior of the room. Only after he exhaled a few coarse breaths did he finally take out the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' and place it on the table.

Sitting by the side of the table, Xiao Yan's gaze stared directly at this extremely beautiful plant for a long while before letting out a long sigh. After spending so much effort, he had finally got his hands on it. It was just that he did not know if it would be of any use to Teacher.

Xiao Yan slowly calmed his agitated feelings. He carefully shut all the windows before returning to the table side and attentively studied the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' that was repeatedly changing color. With the beckoning with his hand, a red colored medicinal cauldron appeared on the table.

As he placed his hand on the jade pot that contained the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva', Xiao Yan suddenly released a hidden strength in his palm. A 'crack' was heard and crack lines that swiftly began spreading appeared like a spider web on the surface of the jade pot.

Xiao Yan's finger pressed on the jade pot that was filled with crack lines.

Instantly, the latter completely broke apart, revealing the roots of the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' that were wrapped by the soil within it.

After musing for a while as he observed the moist soil, Xiao Yan's palm once again nestled close to it. A faint green colored flame seedling emitted a high temperature which quickly grilled the moist soil until it was dry. At this moment, his palm gently patted it and all the soil that was wrapped outside the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' began shedding itself, revealing the lower portion of the roots which were not the least bit damaged.

Xiao Yan's palm curled slightly and a gentle suction force slowly pulled up the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' which was then carefully placed into the medicinal cauldron.

His palm rotated slightly and a contracted green colored flame was spat out from it. Xiao Yan flicked his finger and the flame seedling was swiftly and abruptly inserted into the medicinal cauldron, revolving around the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' a couple of times.

When the green colored flame appeared, the high temperature that it carried caused the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva', which was originally like green jade, to quickly began to wither. Although the branches and leaves withered away, the seven-colored flower's color became increasingly brighter. The moment the branches and leaves completely turned into ashes and disappeared, the color of the flower was so bright that it caused the eyes of those who looked at it to feel a piercing pain. Additionally, a rich fragrance, much like that of a vintage wine that was buried underground for a long time, began to slowly seep out from the fire outlet of the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan's entire spirit was stimulated as he inhaled a breath of the rich fragrance. He was surprised to realize that his tiredness, which was a lingering undesirable effect of the competition despite his rest during the daytime, had actually completely disappeared.

"Tsk tsk. This is indeed something good. Just the fragrance from the flower has this strange effect comparable to a tier three medicinal pill. It

is likely to have some effect on those exhausted spirits.” Xiao Yan let out a praise as he threw his gaze to the medicinal cauldron. His finger moved slightly and the green colored flame which was surrounding the seven-colored flower, abruptly leaped forward, wrapping around the latter. After which, the flame began to violently burn it...

As the flame writhed, Xiao Yan, who was staring at the medicinal cauldron, abruptly let out a soft ‘eh’. He realized that when the ‘Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva’ was being calcined by the flame, the seven-colored light that was repeatedly changing was actually able to contend with the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’, attempting to preserve its entire self within the flame.

“Hei, this thing is indeed no ordinary thing. It is actually able to withstand the ‘Heavenly Flame’ temperature for such a long time. But... this is merely so.” Xiao Yan softly laughed as he realized that as the ‘Underground Green Lotus Flame’ repeatedly soared, the seven-colored light that was contending with it gradually weakened. From the looks of it, the energy that the seven-colored light could use was limited.

Xiao Yan waved his palm gently and another cluster of green-colored flame spewed into the medicinal cauldron. Immediately, the temperature of the green-colored flame once again surged. After a moment, it completely swallowed the resisting seven-colored glow in one swoop...

Once the seven-colored glow disappeared, the seven-colored flower immediately became unbearably weak. With just a movement from the flame seedling, the flower petals swiftly withered. Droplets of seven-colored dew seeped out from the withering flower petals and flickered with a strange luster.

As the seven-colored flower was completely withered, the numerous tiny droplets of seven-colored dewdrops began to slowly merge together, much like a bright pearl emitting a seven-colored glow, appearing very attractive.

“It should be like this, no?” Xiao Yan muttered to himself. Not long after the seven-colored dew drop appeared, he withdrew the flame. He

beckoned with his hand and the cover of the caudron was opened. The seven-colored dewdrop flew out and drew a rainbow arc in midair.

The seven-colored dewdrop that flew up was slowly suspended around half an inch from Xiao Yan's palm. As it moved the weak seven-colored glow quietly expanded and contracted.

"This... how do I use it?" Xiao Yan blinked his eyes uncertainly. He had used his spiritual strength to sweep over it once, only to realize that the seven-colored dewdrop contained a type of strange energy that would cause the spirit to jump for joy. However... what did he need to do in order to let Yao Lao absorb it?

Xiao Yan moved his right hand a little lower and shortened the distance between the seven-colored suspending dewdrop and the dark black ring on his left hand. With a bitter smile, he said, "Don't tell me that I should just throw it in like this?" Xiao Yan knew that this dark black ring also contained a storage ability similar to a storage ring. However, this thing appeared to only listen to Yao Lao's command. With Xiao Yan's Spiritual Strength it was impossible for him to enter.

Xiao Yan vexed over it for a while with a frown, but still did not have any idea how to proceed. He could only carefully stick the seven-colored dewdrop toward the dark black ring.

Following the shortening of the gap between the two things, Xiao Yan abruptly realized that the the dark black ring which had always appeared ancient and deep suddenly become much brighter!

"It is indeed effective..." A great joy appeared in Xiao Yan's heart as he discovered this occurrence. He did not hesitate any longer. With a movement of his hand, the seven-colored dewdrop suddenly smashed against the ring.

The collision between the two of them did not cause the seven-colored dewdrop to slide off the ring. Instead, it strangely adhered to the surface of the ring. In a moment, the dark black ring appeared to have turned into something made of seven different colors.

As the seven-colored glow bloomed, a black-colored glow was gradually

emitted from deep within the dark black ring. The seven-colored glow appeared to be swallowed by this black-colored glow that was shining onto it, becoming weaker at a speed that was visible to the naked eye. Following the weakening of the seven-colored glow, the black-colored one became increasingly dense.

Eyeing this strange occurrence that had happened on the ring, a wild joy surfaced on Xiao Yan's face. He could vaguely sense that there was a spirit which he was familiar with slowly recovering.

The dark glow on the black-colored ring was becoming increasingly dense. Finally, it appeared to be like a bottomless pit.. At one instance, the ring suddenly fell from Xiao Yan's finger and slowly suspended in front of the latter. The dark black glow was withdrawn and spat out while repeating this cycle tirelessly.

"Teacher? Have you awakened?" As he eyed the dark black ring in front of him, Xiao Yan could not resist asking in a somewhat agitated manner.

There was no reply to Xiao Yan's words. The dark black ring simply floated in this manner, but Yao Lao's figure did not appear as Xiao Yan had imagined.

"What is happening?" Xiao Yan parted his mouth slightly, feeling a little lost. He was about to extend his hand to retrieve the ring when the latter, which had been quiet all this while, suddenly trembled violently. A vast and terrifying Spiritual Strength suddenly turned into the form of ripples and burst apart with the ring at its center.

The Spiritual Energy Explosion that had suddenly appeared caused Xiao Yan's expression to change greatly. If this terrifying spiritual assaulting wave were to strike him, it was likely that his spirit would instantly be destroyed!

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the Spiritual Energy ripples that had spread apart. He forcefully suppressed the panic in his heart. It was impossible for him to escape from attacks at this proximity. Moreover, he also believed that Yao Lao would not harm him.

The Spiritual Energy ripples surged out in a lightning like manner. Just

before it came into contact with Xiao Yan, a certain region of the ripple suddenly paused and then disappeared...

The spiritual ripple attack leaped over Xiao Yan and violently surged toward the roof.

“Glug...”

The vague spiritual ripple did not damage anything on the roof which was void of people. However, under a dark black spot, a human figure was suddenly catapulted out. A mouthful of fresh blood was involuntarily spat out. The moonlight scattering on the figure revealed an old face with a somewhat dark complexion.

“This is bad. That fellow has awakened again... In the future, I cannot be in such close proximity to him. This bastard. He knew that I don’t have any evil intent, yet he still uses such a powerful attack!” The black shadow wiped off the blood traces from the corner of his mouth as he scolded. His toes gently pressed on the empty space, and then his body disappeared far into the darkness in a few flashes.

In an isolated town tens of kilometers from the capital, Hai Bodong indifferently stared at a human ice sculpture below him. He carelessly threw a falling leaf onto the ice sculpture. The falling leaf floated in the air as it slowly descended.

TL: Yes, it’s Yan Li.

“Let’s go.” Hai Bodong raised his head and spoke to the two shadows on the tree branches above him with a smile.

“Yes.” Fa Ma and Jia Lao nodded slightly. They were just about to move when their faces suddenly changed. Suddenly, they turned their heads around and threw their gazes toward the distant huge capital.

“What a strong spirit!” An exclamation was simultaneously emitted from the mouths of the two of them without any prior planning. Immediately, the two of them exchanged glances and both were able to see a grave expression in both of their eyes.

“Why is there such a strong person appearing in the capital? Why did

we not hear of any news?” Jua Lao said in a soft and deep voice. As the guardian of the Imperial family, he must immediately be aware of any strong person suddenly appearing in the capital.

“I don’t know. This spirit is far too strong, far from what I can compare with...” Fa Ma soft voice contained aghast.

On another tree, Hai Bodong also turned his head around and eyed the direction of the capital. His mouth widened slightly and a surprise gradually appeared in his eyes, “This spiritual strength appears to be from within that little fellow, Xiao Yan’s body? He... has he recovered his strength?”

“Let’s go. We should go back and take a look!” Hai Bodong narrowed his eyes. He did not tell Fa Ma or Jia Lao about the origin of this Spiritual Strength. He simply randomly said something and in a flash, flew quickly toward the capital.

“Yes.” Fa Ma and Jia Lao nodded. Their bodies soared up and followed closely behind Hai Bodong.

As the three of them disappeared the floating, falling leaf finally landed on the ice sculpture. Immediately, a clear cracking sound appeared and the ice sculpture suddenly burst apart. Ice dust filled the sky before gradually disappearing under the glow of the moon...

Chapter 329: Night Discussion

Within the room, Xiao Yan's hands were placed protectively in front of his face. A long while later, Xiao Yan looked through the gap between his hands and eyed the black colored ring in front of him which was once again calm. Only then did he lower his arms. He inspected his body, which did not appear to have any deformation.

Xiao Yan's clothes, which appeared to have bulged out after receiving a blow from the spiritual ripple had already slowly lowered. After sensing that there was no feeling of discomfort being emitted from his body, Xiao Yan finally let out a slight sigh of relief. He lifted his head and eyed the black colored storage ring in front of him. However, he still did not see the figure of Yao Lao.

"What exactly happened?" Xiao Yan frowned slightly and muttered uncertainly. He called out once again, but the dark black ring merely emitted a dark colored glow. It did not give any response, nor was there even the slightest spiritual movement. Instead, it was quiet like a pool of stagnant water.

"Don't tell me that it failed? But the spiritual ripple earlier was indeed teacher's..." Xiao Yan's face was a little lost and disappointed after waiting for a long time without witnessing any response. If Yao Lao had really woken up, it was likely that he would immediately reply to Xiao Yan in the latter's heart. The current situation, however, seemed to only imply that Yao Lao's spirit was still being limited by something. Therefore, he could not randomly converse with Xiao Yan just like he did in the past.

Regardless of what the situation was, Xiao Yan could at least tell from the glow emitted by the black colored ring that Yao Lao's condition was much better compared to when the latter fell into a slumber. From the looks of it, the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' did have some effect.

After staring at the ring that was suspended in front of him for a long time, Xiao Yan let out a long breath. He extended his hand and grabbed the ring and once again placed it on his finger. This time around, the ring

did not display any resistance. The dark glow continued to remain bright for a while before it completely disappeared. The black ring became like how it looked in the past, appearing inconspicuous.

As his finger slowly touched the black colored ring, which had returned to being calm, Xiao Yan also rubbed his forehead. A long while later, after a bitter laugh he softly muttered, "Teacher, rest assured that I will continue to look for ways to help you recover sooner..."

Xiao Yan sighed once again. He was just about to adjust his breath and begin training when his gaze suddenly swept toward the window. A sharp wind sound that carried an icy air was rushing at him from that direction. As the window was forcefully pushed opened, Hai Bodong's figure appeared within the room. The latter eyed Xiao Yan and was presently surprised as he asked, "Have you recovered?"

Hearing this, Xiao Yan was at a loss. Immediately, he felt a little relief. The question was likely due to the terrifying spiritual ripple earlier. A strong person of the same class as Hai Bodong was extremely sensitive toward such a large spiritual movement.

"I have obtained the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' and have just swallowed it. My spiritual strength did indeed abruptly recover. Unfortunately, for some unknown reason, it once again became quiet after a while..." Xiao Yan shook his head and told a partial lie.

"Uh?" Hai Bodong was shocked. A long while later, he gave a bitter smile and said, "Then you mean that you have still yet to recover? Don't tell me that the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' had no effect?"

"I am also not too certain... but at the very least I can sense the Spiritual Strength that has not been recovered. Before, I completely did not have such a feeling. From the looks of it, the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva' did indeed have some effect." Xiao Yan said somewhat helplessly, "It looks like I can only find some other methods to recover Spiritual Strength..."

"Ah, to think that I was happy over nothing." Hai Bodong shook his head with disappointment. He sat on the chair and said, "If you have recovered your strength, our safety factor when you go to the Misty Cloud Sect this

time around would rise by a lot. If you haven't, it will be extremely dangerous even with my protection. The Misty Cloud Sect has such a long tradition. The strength of those elders are all ridiculously strong. Moreover, there's the joint attack Dou Techniques that the members of the Misty Cloud Sect are extremely good at. The superposition of their attacks is a sharp blade that even I have to avoid..."

"Ke ke, with a Dou Huang like you around, it should not be possible for anyone to stop us from escaping even if we can't beat them, no?" Xiao Yan joked.

"Your thinking is really far too simple..." Hai Bodong shook his head. He was silent for a moment when he suddenly stared at Xiao Yan. In a low voice, he said, "Little fellow, in a day's time, you will be going to the Misty Cloud Sect. I think that there are somethings that we should agree to beforehand."

As he eyed Hai Bodong's face which had suddenly become very serious, Xiao Yan was a little startled. He immediately nodded his head quietly before saying, "Speak."

"Back then I have already said that I will try my best to ensure your safety. However, this is only on the precondition of not offending the Misty Cloud Sect. You should already know that my relationship with the Primer clan is quite deep. Therefore, any action of mine would implicate the Primer clan. Although they may appear to be a strength with quite a lot of weight as one of the three large clans in the Jia Ma Empire, you should know that there are other strengths in the Jia Ma Empire. If we are to talk about having a solid strength, the Misty Cloud Sect would take the top spot. These thousands and hundreds of years of tradition is something that even the Imperial family of the Jia Ma Empire cannot compare with. Of course, this is excluding the integrated strength. No matter how one puts it, the Jia Ma Empire's Imperial family still rules over the entire empire... The strength that this ancient sect hides is also not as simple as what is on the surface..."

"You should clearly understand that although the lifespan of a human on the Dou Qi continent is limited, if one manages to raise his class within

his lifespan, one could extend it by a lot. The last sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, 'Yun Shan', already had the strength of an eight star Dou Huang when he handed over the sect leader position to Yun Yun. At that point in time, there was still quite a lot of time until the end of his life span. During these years, rarely anyone has heard from him. However, not hearing of him does not mean that he has already died..." Hai Bodong slowly said.

"You mean that... the previous Misty Cloud Sect leader may still be alive?" Xiao Yan pressed his lips together and softly asked.

"Although I cannot be certain, the chances of this being true are quite large. If he is still alive... I think that he should have already broke through the barrier of a Dou Huang and become a Dou Zong." Hai Bodong sighed and said, "Therefore, if it is possible, try your best to avoid coming into too great a conflict with the Misty Cloud Sect. Otherwise, when that time comes, even if you, Fa Ma, and that old fellow Jia Xing Tian have some friendship, they would have to think of the big picture and would not offend the Misty Cloud Sect just because of you!"

TL: Jia Xing Tian = Jia Lao

Xiao Yan's expression was calm, seemingly totally unaffected by the words of Hai Bodong. He had never bore such luxurious thoughts. He had only known Fa Ma and Jia Lao for less than half a month. It was too much wishful thinking if he wanted them to become enemies with the largest strength of the Jia Ma Empire just because of him.

"If the Misty Cloud Sect and I really end up reaching the point where we become enemies, I think that Old Hai will also choose to withdraw, no?" Xiao Yan suddenly said in a soft voice. He clearly understood that he and Hai Bodong only had a business relationship. If it were not because of the 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill', it was likely that the two of them would have gone their separate ways.

Hai Bodong was quiet. He raised his eyes and stared at the calm expression of the young man. A long while later, he said, "As long as Yun Tian doesn't appear..." The meaning behind his words was very clear. If

the previous Misty Cloud Sect Leader was to appear, he could only think of the Primer clan and cease interfering with the issue between Xiao Yan and the Misty Cloud Sect.

“Ah, little fellow. You are still young. With your talent, your potential in the future will be limitless. Before you have become a truly strong person, you need to endure. Having too sharp an edge is not beneficial to you. It would not be too late to fight with the Misty Cloud Sect once you can freely control the large strength within your body.” Hai Bodong patted Xiao Yan’s shoulders and said in a serious and concerned manner.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded. If he excluded Teacher’s strength, he would merely be at the Dou Shi class. In the Misty Cloud Sect where the strong were all over the place, one could find many of similar levels to him by just randomly grabbing around. He was still young. This was his greatest asset.

“Ke ke, alright. I have said all this because I want to remind you at this last moment to be as careful as possible when you arrive at the Misty Cloud Sect.” Hai Bodong smiled and stood up. He continued smiling as he spoke to Xiao Yan, “It is already quite late. You should rest. Have a break tomorrow and then go to the Misty Cloud Sect!”

Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly as his gaze followed Hai Bodong out of the room. A long while later, he let out a long breath. These words of Hai Bodong had caused him to be much more awake. Although it appeared that Fa Ma and Jia Lao, these strong people among the peak of the empire, were extremely friendly to him, all of these were mostly built upon not knowing Xiao Yan’s background and the mysterious Teacher that did not exist behind him. In the face of a major event, like Xiao Yan’s conflict with the Misty Cloud Sect, which could pull them into a whirlpool, they would definitely not become enemies with the Misty Cloud Sect because of Xiao Yan.

Reality was always cruel.

Xiao Yan lay down on the soft bed. His hands supported the back of his head as he stared at the bed curtain above him. He slowly closed his eyes,

only to suddenly open them a while later. However, there was no longer the slightest fear of the large being within his dark black eyes. One could say it was the fearlessness of the young or that he was overly arrogant, but he had already said before that he would not choose to give up going to the Misty Cloud Sect for any reason. Forget about the Misty Cloud Sect potentially having a Dou Zong. Even if they had a Dou Sheng, he would definitely appear as he had promised!

“If people don’t offend me, I will not offend them...” Xiao Yan tightly pursed his lips into a thin line. He was stubborn because he was delicate. If the Misty Cloud Sect really intended to bully him with their strength, Xiao Yan could only use reality to tell them that he was not some mud that they could knead...

“Regardless of what happens, I must be victorious in the Three Year Agreement! This is because I need it to prove that my three years of tough training was worth it! If I fail, my three years of training will have gone down the drain and become utterly worthless!” Xiao Yan tightened his fist. He deeply inhaled, straightened his back and leaped up. He then sat cross-legged on the bed.

“Nalan Yanran, just you wait!”

Xiao Yan muttered softly in his heart. His hands displayed the training seal and his body trembled slightly. After which, Xiao Yan calmed his emotions and swiftly entered into his training mode.

Since Yao Lao did not appear as he had pictured, Xiao Yan had decided that he would adjust his condition to the peak tonight. Tomorrow, he would consume the ‘Three-Line Green Spirit Pill’ and break through the Dou Shi barrier, striding into the Da Dou Shi class!

This time around, he definitely couldn’t fail!

Chapter 330: Consuming the Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill

The morning of the next day, warm light poured in from the gap between the windows and a tiny white-colored ray of light spread out on the room's floor. The ray of light slowly stretched out, before it finally climbed onto the bed and shone upon the face of the young man who was sitting cross-legged on it.

Sensing the warm feeling of the outside world, the quiet face of the youth moved slightly. A moment later, his eyes, which were tightly shut, gradually opened, revealing a pair of dark, calm, and indifferent black pupils.

Xiao Yan twisted his body for a moment, before leaping down from the bed in a supple manner. He opened the door, only to be surprised at the empty private room beyond. It was likely that Hai Bodong had left because he had something to do. However, this might be better as Xiao Yan could avoid being disturbed.

After carelessly washing up in the private room, Xiao Yan flipped the green and red-colored sign by the door such that the red surfaced faced out, indicating that he did not want to be disturbed.

Once he had finished all of his preparations, Xiao Yan felt assured and returned to the room. He opened the window, allowing the warm morning sunlight to scatter on his body. This warm and relaxing feeling caused people to feel a little lazy but it also caused Xiao Yan's mood to ascend to a quietness where any fluctuation had difficulty being formed.

Xiao Yan stood silently beside the window, only turning his body a long while later. One could not see the slightest joy or anger in his calm face. He slowly raised his palm and a green light suddenly, slowly, rose from it. The green light grew with the wind and turned into a green-colored lotus seat that emitted a faint green glow. The lotus seat was suspended in front of Xiao Yan as it drifted slightly.

Pressing on the ground gently with his toes, Xiao Yan's body soared and landed steadily on the green lotus seat. He then sat cross-legged on it.

When his body came into contact with the green lotus seat, Xiao Yan could clearly sense that he appeared to have become much more sensitive to the natural energy around him. This core seat was really worthy of being something created from the same source as the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'.

Xiao Yan shook his fingers and a green-colored medicinal pill encircled by three pill-lines appeared between his fingers. He lowered his head and studied this medicinal pill which had been successfully refined after exhausting all of his strength. He was silent for a long time before he saying softly, "This time around, I cannot fail. Otherwise..."

Xiao Yan shook his head and released a breath of turbid air. He slowly closed his eyes and formed the training seals with both hands. The rising and falling of his chest grew increasingly smooth.

Not long after Xiao Yan closed his eyes, the calm air surrounding him quietly began to fluctuate, just like a lake's surface whose calmness was suddenly broken by a rock thrown into it. Numerous energy flows, which could be seen by the naked eye, seeped out from the air. They rotated around the green lotus for a while before turning into tens of thousands of energy threads which began pouring into Xiao Yan. When they passed through the green-light barrier, which the green lotus emitted, they swiftly underwent an initial purification. After which, they each carried a little of the pure energy from the green lotus as they followed Xiao Yan's breathing and entered into his body.

Once these energies entered his body, they were easily controlled by Xiao Yan's mind. They were moved along the route of the Qi Method as they were circulated once around. The impurities within each energy thread were completely purified, leaving only a little pure energy which was poured into the vortex.

Xiao Yan slowly absorbed the energy of the external environment. A long while later, when everything was back to normal, Xiao Yan prepared

to flick his finger on the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' that was situated within two of his fingers. In a skillful manner, he flicked it into his open mouth.

Before Xiao Yan could react, as soon as the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' entered his mouth and dissolved, the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' swiftly turned into three pure energy waves, with each portion being increasingly stronger than the last. They followed his throat and rolled turbulently down. Finally, they poured into his Qi Paths with an angry roar.

At the moment when the three portions of energy entered his Qi Paths, Xiao Yan's hands which were maintaining the training seal abruptly trembled. He realized that of the three portions of energy, two of them had suddenly emitted a high temperature comparable to a flame burning at this moment. The other white-colored energy had become as cold as ice. Anywhere that the cold air from the energy passed through, a thin frost would actually appear on his Qi Path walls.

This hot and cold feeling nearly caused Xiao Yan, who was caught unprepared, to withdraw from his training mode. It was fortunate that his reaction was swift and he quickly settled his spirit. As he clenched his teeth, withstanding the strange pain and feeling the three energy types with different temperatures, he vaguely understood a little. The pattern of these three types of energy was similar to the three types of flame he used back then, when he refined the medicinal pill.

"Don't tell me that the so called 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' was actually something that absorbs flame energy into it and then using the energy contained within it to imitate the flames?" Xiao Yan had suddenly come to a realization within his heart. He immediately and swiftly sunk his mind into his body. With a thought, waves of turbulent green-colored Dou Qi from within the vortex moved along the Qi Paths as they surged out. Finally, they came to a violent collision with the energy of the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' at a certain spot within his Qi Path.

"Bang..."

As he heard the soft muffled sound emitted from within his body, Xiao

Yan's throat also let out a soft muffled groan. A flush surged onto his face. The seal on his hands changed and his mind began to direct these three clusters of energy, which had lost some of their vigor in the collision with the Dou Qi. He moved them along the Qi Method route and began to swiftly circulate them.

During the circulation, the two hot and one cold energies began to intertwine with one another and were actually able to merge together in an extremely harmonious manner. From time to time, it would emit different low or high temperatures. This caused Xiao Yan to suffer terribly. If he knew that the flame used to refine the pill was related to the power when consuming the medicinal pill, he would not have used the 'Bone Chilling Flame' in such an unhesitating manner... The attack earlier initiated by his Dou Qi may have caused the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' medicinal effect to weaken a little. However, as the three types of energy perfectly merged into an energy possessing three colors while being circulated around the Qi Method routes, the size of the energy had suddenly expanded greatly. The initially somewhat vague energy had actually completely turned into a three-colored liquid...

As the size expanded, Xiao Yan could even vaguely hear the excited roar that the energy emitted. Before he could react, the three-colored energy within his Qi Path, instantly became like a train swiftly rushing by and began circulating in a peremptory manner within his Qi Paths. Xiao Yan was shocked and was just about to prepare to control it with all his might when the three-colored energy suddenly paused. Countless tiny energy columns divided from it. Finally, under Xiao Yan's stunned gaze, they followed the Qi Paths in his body and flowed turbulently in all directions. Even some of the Qi Paths that Xiao Yan had never touched in the past were struck violently by these randomly colliding threads of energy as they forced their way through...

A drop of cold sweat slowly rolled down Xiao Yan's forehead. The corner of his mouth twitched abruptly. At this moment, his entire face had become contorted from pain. A hissing cool air was seeping out from the gaps between his teeth.

Within his body, the countless tiny clusters of energy brutally rushed into some of the narrow Qi Paths that Xiao Yan had never reached, emitting a sound similar to a torn bamboo. The energy whizzed past like a flowing river and the narrow and tight Qi Paths were swiftly expanded. Numerous extremely thin cracks appeared on the Qi Paths. From within the cracks, a faint glow came splattering out. This was an omen that the Qi Paths could not resist the violent expansion and were about to burst apart...

As the Qi Path's crack lines were gradually being enlarged, the three-colored tiny energy that was whizzing past left behind countless white-colored liquids. These liquids which contained a cold air swiftly adhered to the surface of the Qi Path walls which were about to break apart. After which, they seeped into the Qi Path walls. As the cold liquid did so, the crack lines actually began to slowly shrink. A moment later, the crack lines on the Qi Paths completely disappeared. However, the tiny Qi Paths in the past which could only accommodate a little energy passing through them, had undergone a complete change in their appearance and size...

Scenes similar to this were currently occurring in countless Qi Paths within Xiao Yan's body. Although the intense pain almost caused Xiao Yan to blackout, the Qi Paths which were being swiftly expanded, caused him to understand that if he persevered, it would be extremely beneficial to him. As long as all of these tiny Qi Paths were opened up, the speed at which he dispatched Dou Qi in the future would undoubtedly be much faster. If he could control his Dou Qi like he did through his arms in battle, he would gain a very large advantage.

The energy which was separated out continued to rush forward after opening up a tiny Qi Path. One could hear a soft dragging sound as a tiny three-colored energy column was spat from the pores on the surface of Xiao Yan's body...

Not long after the first sound appeared, Xiao Yan's body suddenly began to repeatedly vibrate. Cluster after cluster of three-colored energies began shooting out violently from his pore like a fountain. In a moment, they caused Xiao Yan to appear like a kettle with numerous holes...

The energy shot out for a few seconds before completely disappearing. However, after the energy disappeared, blood started shooting out from these pores. As the blood slowly rolled down, half of Xiao Yan was drenched in blood.

The pores which were expanded slowly began recovering to their normal state. However, Xiao Yan could clearly sense that each time he alternated his training seal, those pores which had been opened up such that they were connected to the Qi Paths would actually be like a wind tunnel as they wildly absorbed the energy of the outside world at a swift pace that was at least ten times faster than what it had been in the past.

The intense pain within those tiny Qi Paths gradually disappeared, causing Xiao Yan to sigh in relief. Finally, he ceased being distracted and completely focused his attention on the largest cluster of three-colored energy which was still surging along the Qi Method's route.

As his mind watched that three-colored energy which did not appear to know the meaning of being tired, Xiao Yan felt a little headache. He did not expect that this 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' would actually contain such a large amount of energy. A moment ago, just the energy that had been separated from the main body was able to open up some of the tiny Qi Paths and directly connect them to the pores on the surface of his skin. On the other hand, only an extremely small portion of the energy of this main body had been refined after circulating for a couple of rounds around the Qi Method routes. According to this speed, how long would he need to completely refine all of it?

"Ah..." Xiao Yan gently inhaled a breath of air as he softly mumbled in his heart, "I can only use the 'Green Lotus Core Flame'..."

As the sigh fell, Xiao Yan conveyed his intention. The liquid energy around the vortex, which was like a tiny lake revolving around the 'Acceptance Spirit' at the middle, began to swiftly rotate. Numerous wisps of green-colored flame shot out and under Xiao Yan's control, began violently pouncing on the three-colored energy...

The moment the two came into contact, the three-colored energy

became like a pot of boiling oil as it suddenly began to surge...

Chapter 331: Advancing to a Da Dou Shi!

“Chi...”

The green-colored flame and the three-colored energy aggressively collided within the Qi Path. A soft ‘chi chi’ noise repeatedly sounded. The three-colored energy had begun to swiftly boil at this moment. Wave after wave of rich energy ripples were emitted from within the main body of the energy and collided into the Qi Paths to cause the corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth to shiver. Fortunately, these few main Qi Paths of Xiao Yan’s were extremely tough and strong. Therefore, there was no serious problem other than feeling a little pain.

Xiao Yan forcefully resisted the pain as he ordered the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ to wrap around the three-colored energy. After which, he forcefully dragged it along and once again began circulating it through the Qi Method’s route.

The green-colored flame wrapped around the three-colored energy, whizzing past the Qi Method’s route. If one’s mind were to carefully observe it, one would be able to vaguely see the swiftly boiling three-colored energy within the flame.

As the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ repeatedly burned, the three-colored energy was completely merged into a green-brownish-colored liquid energy. Under the threat of the high temperature, the energy created from the merger this time around appeared to be even larger than it was in the past. However, even after becoming more powerful, it still did not possess enough strength to withstand the power of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’. When Xiao Yan once again deployed a wisp of green flame from the ‘Acceptance Spirit’, the green-brownish-colored energy’s resistance finally began to gradually weaken. As the energy was circulated, threads of hot green-brownish energy that had lost their wildness slowly left the main body and were completely turned into a pure green-colored liquid energy by the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ before being poured into the vortex...

With the threads of green-colored energy being poured in, the liquid

energy within the vortex was abruptly expanded at a pace that would cause people to be shocked...

“It is indeed worthy of being the ‘Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill’. The medicinal effect is actually so strong...” As he eyed this scene, Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised in his heart. He could sense that his current ability was about to break through to the eight star Dou Shi level. Although the distance from the eighth star to the ninth star or even breaking the Da Dou Shi barrier still required an even larger amount of energy, there was still more than half the medicinal strength remaining in the ‘Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill’.

“It should be enough...” Xiao Yan calculated within his heart. He once again focused his attention and repeatedly exhausted his Dou Qi to pull out the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ from within the ‘Acceptance Spirit’. Finally, these new flames reinforced the flame that was burning at the green-brownish energy.

Although controlling the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ exhausted quite a bit of Dou Qi, the consumption was not even worth mentioning compared to the energy that was continuously and wildly pouncing over from within the ‘Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill’.

The green-colored flame that was wrapped around the green-brownish energy swiftly cycled around the Qi Paths. Each time a cycle was completed, there would be a large amount of pure energy that had been completely refined. That energy poured into the vortex. Each time that happened, the size of the vortex would expand greatly.

Originally, the vortex was only half filled with green-colored liquid energy. Currently, however, the liquid within the vortex already occupied three quarters of its space. Based on this speed, when the vortex was completely filled, he would have reached the limit of the Dou Shi class...

As time slowly passed, the body of Xiao Yan in the outside world was covered by a pale green-colored glow. This green-colored glow covering his body formed the shape of a Dou Qi cloak. Currently, this green-colored light was being repeatedly distorted, almost like it was trying to transform

into something new. During this time, the characteristics similar to a real substance actually appeared on the originally vague Dou Qi cloak.

At this moment, Xiao Yan was naturally unable to sense the changes around him. With the nerve calming effect of the green lotus seat, he could always maintain the greatest control over his mind. At this moment, all of his attention was completely placed on the Dou Qi vortex in his body which was about to be completely filled.

The vortex slowly rotated within his body. Within it, the green-colored liquid energy was like a flooded dam which was about to be discharged as it drifted around. It seemed that it would spill out of the vortex which would reach its limit at any moment.

Xiao Yan's mind did not dare to relax even a little, as he watched the vortex that had been completely filled. In his Qi Paths, three quarters of the medicinal effect of the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' may have already been refined, but the remaining medicinal strength was still quite a substantial amount of energy. However, the vortex was currently unable to contain even the slightest bit of additional energy. It's capacity had already reached the limit. If he were to forcefully pour more in, the vortex may crack because of it, finally resulting in...

One had to change when one lacked resources. Therefore, the current Xiao Yan needed to take measures in order to avoid such a large tragedy. If he managed to avoid it, his strength would expand greatly. If he failed to do so and the vortex were to break, all of his Dou Qi would escape and he would end up becoming a cripple. Having once received such treatment, Xiao Yan naturally would not choose to receive it once again...

Xiao Yan slowly exhaled a breath of turbid air. The seal his hands formed, quietly changed. When each Dou Shi was about to breakthrough, he would choose the most appropriate action according to his ability. This was an action that countless people before him had proven through their success. It was very simple. The method was to suppress...

The gas phase energy could be compressed into a high grade liquid energy while the liquid body could similarly be compressed into an even

higher grade solid energy. This so called solid energy was also the secret behind the substance like Dou Qi Armor that a Da Dou Shi could summon.

A seal was formed as Xiao Yan's hands changed positions, the vortex in his body was momentarily silent before numerous round ripples suddenly began to fluctuate its surface. The fluctuations became increasingly intense and they finally became like boiling water. Green waves emitted a fizzing sound as they repeatedly seeped out from the middle of the vortex.

The moment that the energy ripple fluctuated, the vortex which was originally slowly rotating began to quietly increase its speed. The time in which it accelerated was extremely short. In merely less than ten sounds, the vortex which was originally spinning lazily turned into a spiralling round object that was rotating at a wild speed. Numerous green-colored arcs appeared around the vortex due to the high rotation speed. The humming sound created by the rotation was slowly being transmitted within his body. The sounds which appeared to contain some sort of mysterious rhythm passed through his Qi Paths, seeped past the bones and seeped through the cells, finally arriving at his skin. It was then transmitted into the Dou Qi cloak which was repeatedly twisting on Xiao Yan's body.

After the sound was transmitted into the Dou Qi cloak and the twisting on the latter ceased. An instant later, a green light suddenly flashed. The green-colored Dou Qi was swiftly mixed, aggregated, and finally fused together... The brightness diminished and a green-colored armor that possessed the image of a flame began to vaguely appear on the surface of Xiao Yan's body at his chest area. Although this green-colored armor was merely at its infancy, the profound pale-green bright light and the appearing and disappearing forceful energy that spewed forth caused everyone to clearly understand that it could not be compared to the Dou Qi cloak from before.

This infant shape Dou Qi Armor was slowly formed without Xiao Yan realizing it. The interior of Xiao Yan's body was also undergoing a soul-stirring change.

Xiao Yan's mind was controlling the rotating speed of the vortex, preventing it from exceeding a certain limit which may bring some harm to his body. He could only carefully wait upon it, not daring to be even the slightest bit relax. Of course, besides this, he must do his best to delay the arrival of the medicinal strength from the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill'. At this very moment, the vortex which had reached its limit did not require more energy to be continuously poured in. Hence, Xiao Yan also needed to split his attention to control the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' and hold it off.

Although removing the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' would halt the refinement, stopping the energy from continuously being poured into the vortex, Xiao Yan could not be certain if the latter would suddenly split apart again. If it was to split apart and a thread of unrefined energy were to force its way into the vortex, would it not end up breaking the equilibrium within the vortex that Xiao Yan had spent a great amount of effort to maintain?

Just thinking of the consequence of the equilibrium breaking caused Xiao Yan's heart to shiver. This was something he did not dare try... At that moment, he used a part of his mind to repeatedly push the vortex's rotating speed while another part delayed the medicinal strength of the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill' with all his might, causing it to be unable to complete a cycle...

Currently, the situation in Xiao Yan's body was undoubtedly conducting a race against time. Xiao Yan needed to condense the liquid energy within the completely filled vortex into a solid form before the next wave of energy arrived. Only then could he avoid the danger of the vortex breaking up.

The wildly rotating vortex had already turned into a faint green-colored shadow. Following this high speed rotation, the liquid energy within the vortex was strangely being reduced at a speed visible to the naked eye. Although the energy had been reduced, Xiao Yan's mind could clearly sense that there was a substance with a large amount of energy in the deep region of the vortex which was slowly being formed.

“I’m nearly there...” Sensing the substance which was being formed at a faster pace, Xiao Yan’s tensed feelings eased up. Immediately, he began urging it to form even more quickly.

Time slowly flowed by. The liquid energy within the vortex was swiftly being reduced. All of this appeared to be progressing in an extremely smooth manner.

The liquid energy within the interior of the vortex which hummed wildly, had already reached the point where it was about to be exhausted. A green-colored diamond crystal body, merely the size of a thumb, had suddenly and slowly become suspended in the middle of the vortex under the watch of Xiao Yan’s mind. It was quiet and did not move. The glow on its body which was varying in intensity represented the fragility of this newly formed object.

Xiao Yan’s mind was a little curious as he stared at the green-colored diamond crystal body that appeared to stand in the eye of the storm. The moment this crystal appeared, Xiao Yan could clearly sense the comfortable feeling emitted from deep within his spirit. This little thing was the most crucial object to becoming a Da Dou Shi. The strong people of the Da Dou Shi class normally called it: “Dou Crystal!”

In the eyes of many strong people, only when one possessed a Dou Crystal could one be considered to have truly stepped into the hall of Dou Qi training. This little thing was a crystal formed by all the Dou Qi contained within one’s body. Within it, it contained a large amount of energy that would shock people.

Xiao Yan’s mind was a little intoxicated as he eyed the green-colored diamond shaped crystal body which had just been formed. Before Xiao Yan had the chance to catch his breath, however, a soft sound was suddenly emitted from within his Qi Paths, causing his heart to leap slightly. He moved his mind and swiftly swept across his Qi Paths. Immediately, his expression changed drastically...

Within the Qi Paths, the medicinal strength of the ‘Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill’, which was originally extremely resistant to the ‘Green Lotus

Core Flame' had for some reason chose to suddenly completely give up its resistance, allowing the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' to completely refine all the remaining medicinal strength. After which... the flame carried a surging energy and rushed to the vortex while roaring away.

Xiao Yan's face was pale as he watched the flood of energy similar to a flood transiting from one point to another as it ignored the attempts to obstruct it by his mind. A shock overflowed Xiao Yan's heart. If he allowed this energy to rush into the vortex, the weak Dou Crystal which had only been born a short while ago would immediately be completely shattered. Once the Dou Crystal was shattered, not only would it be impossible for Xiao Yan to advance to a Da Dou Shi, but his strength would also greatly decline due to an energy deficiency!

All of these were disastrous aftermaths of consuming medicinal pill to advance one's strength. If he had relied on his own body's strength to steadily charge at the Da Dou Shi class, it would naturally be impossible for such a dangerous scenario to occur. Relying on an external object ultimately had a potential danger that was enough to destroy oneself.

Of course, the current Xiao Yan didn't have the mood to think about these drawbacks of using an external object. He was now using all of his strength to focus on controlling the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' which was wrapped around the energy, wanting to pull away this cluster of energy. Unfortunately, the charging force of energy this time around was overly large. Moreover, due to it having been refined, this pure energy already had Xiao Yan's sign on it. Therefore, the high temperature burning of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' had already lost its effect...

TL: Xiao Yan's sign = part of Xiao Yan

After trying many different futile measures, Xiao Yan could only be horrified as he watched the large amount of energy come increasingly close to the vortex. He felt somewhat dispirited, having not expected that he would actually destroy himself before he went to the Misty Cloud Sect and before he had beat Nalan Yanran...

In a trance, an image once again flashed in his mind. It was a flashback

to the Xiao clan's hall back then. A young lady with a slim figure carried some unhappiness and arrogance on her face. In the hall, everyone had a different expression. Ridicule, mocking, regretful, anger... the faces of each one of the flashed by. Finally, he arrived at the leader's seat when a middle aged man whose face was an intervening green and red.

"I believe that my son will not be a useless person forever..." Back then, Xiao Zhan forcefully endured the anger and embarrassment he felt within his heart upon being forced to end the engagement as he softly spoke in this manner to the young man who was kneeling in front of him.

A warm laughter slowly sounded, causing Xiao Yan, who was sitting cross-legged on the green lotus seat to slowly lower his head...

"Father, thank you very much..."

Xiao Yan softly muttered. His throat emitted a powerful roar like that of a cornered beast. A ferocious Spiritual Strength erupted at this moment.

The moment the Spiritual Strength rose, the green-colored flame within the vortex suddenly began to erupt like that of a volcano.

"Go back!"

The green-colored flame which had rushed out like that of a volcano violently collided with the surging energy which was about to enter the vortex. The powerful force directly shoved the energy into the Qi Paths around the edge of the vortex. Finally, it moved along the Qi Paths that had been opened up and violently shoved all the energy out.

"Chi, chi..."

The 'chi chi' sound once again sounded within the room. Xiao Yan's body trembled abruptly. Over ten energy pillars were shot out from within his pores. In an instant, the intense light covered the entire room.

"Ding..." As the energy light pillar which threatened the crystal body left his body, the wildly rotating vortex in Xiao Yan's body slowly came to a stop. The brightness of the green-colored diamond shape crystal body within it abruptly surged!

Within the room, Xiao Yan's eyes abruptly opened. A green-colored glow shot out from within his eyes. With a gentle press of his toes, his body softly landed on the ground. Xiao Yan's gaze swept around. His presence was completely different from what it was yesterday.

"I have succeeded..." Xiao Yan slowly exhaled the stuffiness that had been present in his chest for a long while. He sensed a surging feeling which he had never sensed before in the past. Xiao Yan mumbled softly before a wild joy could not help but immediately appear on his face. A loud laughter of one who had experienced great relief sounded within the room.

Underneath the loud laughter, there appeared to be an old gratified sigh that quietly sounded. However, it was immediately covered by the laughter and faded into nothingness.

Chapter 332: Entrusting

The loud laughter of Xiao Yan quietly disappeared from within the room. He sensed the feeling of his body being full of energy. The corner of his mouth contained a smile as he tightened his fist. A rich green glow swiftly covered the surface of his hand. The green glow then darkened and a cutting edge gradually appeared.

Xiao Yan's legs opened slightly. His feet abruptly stomped on the ground. His body seemed to have disappeared and he instantly appeared at a spot around one meter away from where he had previously been. His fist contained a powerful force that stifled people's breathing as it violently smashed into a huge pillar in front of him.

"Bang!" A huge sound erupted and wood fragments flew in all directions. Xiao Yan tilted his head and eyed his fist which had actually passed completely through the pillar. He laughed softly and slowly withdrew it, leaving an empty hole and a few deep crack lines on the pillar.

TL: How did the house not fall....

Xiao Yan's palm curled slightly. His fingers were slightly bent as a faint green glow permeated through the tip of his finger. A moment later, he gently flicked his finger and the green-colored force shot out like a sharp arrow as it left his finger. Immediately, a 'bang' sounded, smashing the flower vase on the table until it was shattered apart.

"External Emission of Dou Qi." Seeing the smashed flower vase, Xiao Yan laughed softly. Upon reaching the Da Dou Shi class, one's Dou Qi could finally leave one's body and enter the external environment. It was no longer limited or bound by the body. This was a great advantage when one battled with others.

Xiao Yan's gaze slowly swept once around the room. He beckoned with his palm and returned the green lotus seat to his ring. With a wave of his hand, a force pushed opened the window. He eyed the sky, which was nearing noon and felt a little surprised. He did not expect that he would have actually exhausted so much time.

Xiao Yan stood at the window and mused for a moment. He was just planning to leave when Hai Bodong's laughter was transmitted from the door, "Are you done?"

Hearing this, Xiao Yan gave a response with a smile. With Hai Bodong's strength, he could naturally clearly sense the energy ripple that was gradually returning to normal.

After Xiao Yan responded, the room's door was pushed open by Hai Bodong. He smiled and looked once around the room. Immediately, his gaze paused on Xiao Yan and he asked with an expression of slight surprise on his forehead, "Your Qi appears to have reached that of a Da Dou Shi?"

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He had currently just completed his advancement and his Qi was not perfectly controlled. Therefore, a strong person like Hai Bodong would naturally be able to see his depth with one glance.

Hai Bodong fondled his beard. His gaze swept across Xiao Yan and his eyes suddenly became a little strange. Occasionally, his eyebrows would knit tightly together. A moment later, he finally slowly spoke, "Looks like this should be your true strength, right?"

Xiao Yan's heart leaped. His eyes involuntarily narrowed. He stared at Hai Bodong but did not say anything.

"Ke ke, I have been feeling that there was something strange. With you being less than twenty years old, you should not have been able to contend with a Dou Huang within such a short period of time even if you started training in your mother's womb." Hai Bodong waved his hand, indicating for Xiao Yan not to be anxious as he said, "I think that there should be something with an extremely powerful force present or sealed within your body, no? The reason for you to be able to fight with a Dou Huang should likely be because you rely on this strength, no?"

"Relax, I don't have any other meanings in my question. It is just I keep feeling that the strength displayed on your surface appears to be gradually growing and made such a guess because of it. Ke ke, but from the looks of

it, it seems that my guess appears a little accurate.” Hai Bodong smiled at Xiao Yan. “Although that strength doesn’t really belong to you, the fact that you are able to control it means that even a Dou Huang would be a little afraid of you. As long as you possess strength in this world, you will be able to obtain the respect and equal treatment from the strong. No one would be bothered about where the strength comes from or whether it belongs to you. Everyone will only focus on one thing. That is whether or not you have strength.”

Xiao Yan quietly nodded his head. Indeed, regardless of who the power belonged to, as long as someone was able to control it, that person would be the owner of such power! Hai Bodong clearly understood this point. Therefore, he was unconcerned about the source of Xiao Yan’s strength. What he was concerned about was if Xiao Yan would be able to contend with him when the former used that power.

“Ke ke, I received something when I went out earlier.” Seeing Xiao Yan’s expression, Hai Bodong was wise to change the conversation topic. He suddenly took out an ancient grand looking cloud white-colored letter from his pocket. On the surface of the letter, there was a white-colored cloud painted on it. A sword was inserted into the cloud, emitting a fierce aura.

“It’s from the Misty Cloud Sect?” Seeing the special picture, Xiao Yan’s forehead twitched as he asked in astonishment.

“Yes.” Hai Bodong nodded his head. He waved the letter in his hand and said, “This is an invitation from the Misty Cloud Sect, which invites some of the leaders of certain groups and some strong people.”

“Invitation?”

“You should be able to guess that the Misty Cloud Sect is now vigorously inviting everyone with some reputation to the Misty Cloud Sect tomorrow because of the so called ‘Three Year Agreement’ between you and Nalan Yanran. I think that it is to help Nalan Yanran, this future junior sect leader, to gain some strength and reputation. After all, if she were to win tomorrow, her reputation would grow greatly not only within the Misty

Cloud Sect, but also outside of it.” Hai Bo Dong smiled as he replied.

“Isn’t the Misty Cloud Sect overly presumptuous? What if Nalan Yanran were to lose? Who would be the one who would lose face? Has the head of Yun Yun been sandwiched between the door?” Xiao Yan coldly laughed.

“Perhaps this isn’t really related to Yun Yun. According to what I know, it is likely that Yun Yun was currently not within the Misty Cloud Sect. Everything that has been happening is presided over by the Misty Cloud Sect’s Council of Elders.” Hai Bodong spread his hands out in front of him as he replied.

“Not at the Misty Cloud Sect? This ‘Three Year Agreement’ is considered an extremely important agreement for Nalan Yanran. At such a time, she as the teacher is actually not present?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan was at a loss as he spoke with shock.

“It appeared that after we met the two mysterious Dou Huangs at Yan City, Yun Yun and Old Man Jia had rushed over. According to what Jia Lao had said, she appeared to have found something at our battleground. After which, she did not return to the Misty Cloud Sect. I think that what she had found should be related to those two mysterious Dou Huangs. Only a strong person of that level would cause her to be so concerned.” Hai Bodong voiced his thoughts.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he let out a sigh of relief in his heart. Since Yun Yun was absent from the Misty Cloud Sect, the danger of their trip this time around would naturally decrease greatly.

“But from what I guess, she should be returning soon. It is likely that she would return to the Misty Cloud Sect within these two days. After all, she values Nalan Yanran greatly. Therefore, try not to remain at the Misty Cloud Sect for too long once you complete that agreement. Otherwise, an unforeseen change might occur once she returns.” Hai Bodong reminded.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He turned around and eyed the gradually darkening sky outside. After being silent for a while, he bid Hai Bodong goodbye before leaving the inn by himself. He stood at the end of the street where the human flow was turbulent and slowly exhaled.

Following the human flow, he walked toward the Primer Auction House.

Within the auction house, he coincidentally met Ya Fei who was patrolling the main hall. When the two of them met, they could not resist smiling. The latter sent away the followers around her. Xiao Yan then followed behind the enchanting figure which drew the gazes of the entire place at any time. Finally, they sat down leisurely near a window in a quiet room on the second floor of the auction house.

Ya Fei received a teapot from a female servant before sending her off. She personally poured a cup of tea for Xiao Yan and herself before leaning on a soft sofa and raising both her legs.

Ya Fei's hand rubbed her cheek. Through a transparent glass window, her gaze studied the auction house below where people were coming and going. She randomly asked, "Are you going to go to the Misty Cloud Sect tomorrow?"

"Yes." Xiao Yan lifted the teacup and took a sip as he nodded slightly.

"Alas, three years have passed in the blink of an eye. The young fellow from back then has already grown up." Ya Fei turned her head around and looked at that ordinary young man's face. A moment later, a flush suddenly surfaced on her bewitching pretty face as she said, "Hey! Can't you temporarily take it off?"

Xiao Yan was momentarily blank. He hesitated for a moment before wetting his hand with a little tea. After which, he flicked his hand around his neck area and immediately gently pulled off the mask.

With the removal of the mask, the ordinary face disappeared. Replacing it was a delicate and handsome face that emitted a little powerful temperament. On this young and handsome face, Ya Fei could still see a little of the tender outline back then.

Ya Fei's pretty eyes did not blink as they stared at the pair of black ink-like pupils. Even after three years of tough training, he was still that fair.

"You still look better as you are now." Ya Fei leaned her body forward, crossed her ten fingers together and placed her hand on the table. Her

chin was nestled on her interlaced ten fingers as she spoke with a smile to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan rubbed this original face which had been hidden for a long time. He also felt some new feelings rise in him.

“Once the matter with the Misty Cloud Sect is over, where do you plan to go? Are you returning home?” Ya Fei inquired with a smile.

“I will make a trip back. But after that, I will head to the Jia Nan Academy.”

“The Jia Nan Academy, huh.” Hearing this Ya Fei was at a loss. Immediately, she appeared to have recalled something as she softly said, “Are you going to look for Xun Er?”

“That is part of the reason.” Xiao Yan smiled. He lowered his head and took a sip of tea. Because of that, he did not see the disappointment that flashed across Ya Fei’s pretty face.

“You are currently the person in the Primer clan who holds the most power. I think that once I leave, I would like to trouble you to help look after the Xiao clan. I will definitely return this favor to you in the future.” Xiao Yan held his teacup with both hands, hesitated for a moment, before telling Ya Fei the reason behind him coming to look for her. Although there were people among those whom he got to know within the capital who were even more powerful than Ya Fei, the only one who he could trust was Ya Fei in front of him.

“Return the favor? How are you going to return the favor?” Ya Fei’s bright eyes rotated as she smiled and asked.

“Uh, the matter which I have requested has yet to even begin and you want to demand a reward already?” Xiao Yan felt neither able to laugh nor cry as he said.

Ya Fei smacked her lips. She leaned her back against the soft sofa, revealing a snow white mesmerising arc as she said, “Who knows when you will return after you leave this time around. The last time you left, you were away for almost two years. I’m afraid that it will be even longer this

time around.”

Xiao Yan smiled, but did not deny it. He pulled the conversation away from this topic. In any case, he had already brought word to Ya Fei. Xiao Yan knew just what this smart woman would do.

The two of them sat together and chatted for a long time until a curved moon had slowly climbed up into the night sky. Only then did Xiao Yan stand up, bid her goodbye and leave.

In an empty and quiet room, a man was respectfully clearing the table. Occasionally, he would turn his heated gaze toward the bewitching woman who was leaning on the glass window. He was very jealous of the ordinary looking young man earlier. This was because the latter was able to converse so intimately with the goddess in his heart.

As she leaned against the window, Ya Fei eyed the tall and straight figure below who was slowly walking out. A long while later, she gently inhaled a breath of air. Some dejection appeared faintly on her exquisite pretty face.

“I hope that you will be victorious.”

The next day, a fiery red sun broke through the shackles of the horizon and leaped forth. In an instant, the warm sunlight shone down upon the land.

Within a room, a young man slowly pulled off the mask on his face and threw it into his storage ring. From now on, the man known as Yan Xiao would disappear. The current him was now Xiao Yan!

Xiao Yan removed the alchemist long robe from his body and put on a deep black-colored robe which caused the delicate and handsome face of Xiao Yan to gain an additional mysterious feeling.

After using ice water to wash his face, Xiao Yan raised his head and eyed the somewhat white, delicate and young face in the mirror. He smiled faintly as his right hand was extended and the storage ring flashed. A huge black ruler that was around Xiao Yan’s height suddenly appeared!

Xiao Yan’s hand grabbed the hilt of the ruler. The body of the ruler was rotated and a gentle breeze was formed from Xiao Yan’s suppressing

force. As a soft sound appeared, the huge black ruler was strapped onto his back.

Xiao Yan patted his hand, pushed opened the door and walked out. He descended from the inn and walked out at a steady pace without alarming anyone. He followed the street and headed out of the city's exit. Finally, he stood on a high slope outside the city.

Raising his head, Xiao Yan inspected the snow-white huge mountain peak far away which stood in a towering manner. A faint sound of swords soared into the sky.

Chapter 333: Xiao clan, Xiao Yan!

The strongest faction within the Jia Ma Empire, the Misty Cloud Sect, had been passed on without break from one generation to another, resulting in this old sect standing at the peak of the Jia Ma Empire. If it hadn't been for the sect rules, which prohibited the seizure of the power from an emperor, the Misty Cloud Sect would have probably completely controlled the entire Jia Ma Empire during the few times when there was a change in dynasty.

This was also the reason why the imperial family of each empire was extremely afraid of the huge being that was close by. When it came to this generation of the Jia Ma Empire Imperial family, they finally possessed a strength that could cause the Misty Cloud Sect to pause due to having the guardian Jia Xing Tian and the protection of a mysterious unique beast. Therefore, the battle experienced elite soldiers who the Imperial family sent to the foot of the Misty Cloud Sect could live in peace.

The Imperial family had stationed the soldiers there for many years. Its intention was something almost everyone was clearly aware of. They were guarding against the Misty Cloud Sect.

In the face of such an action by the Imperial family, the Misty Cloud Sect did not respond too intensely. Other than some of the young disciples within the sect feeling bitter and going to the camp and creating trouble initially, the upper echelons of the sect had remained quiet over this matter. This was because they knew that the imperial family could not tolerate anyone sleeping beside their couch. The Misty Cloud Sect was already so accustomed to receiving the suspicion of the Imperial family. As long as the Misty Cloud Sect did not collapse, the military force at the foot of the mountain would never dare to make any possible moves.

Not one of the dynasties of the Jia Ma Empire had really dared to attack the Misty Cloud Sect. This was because they clearly understood that it was a huge hornet's nest. A poke at it would cause the sky to overturn.

The Misty Cloud Sect was built on top of the Misty Cloud Mountain and

the Misty Cloud Mountain was only tens of kilometers from the capital. The two of them were very close together, much like two huge beings relying on one another.

Although Xiao Yan had already waited for three years for this day to come, he did not use his Purple Cloud Wings to hurry over. Instead, he walked at a steady pace as he headed to the snow white mountain peak penetrating the clouds, which was located at the edge of his sight. He wore a black robe and carried a huge ruler, much like an ascetic person.

The black-robed young man walked slowly on the unobstructed main road. The huge black ruler on his back was extremely eye catching. From within the occasional horse carriage which came and went on the road, there would be surprised gazes thrown at him. Xiao Yan appeared to not have seen these gazes. His footsteps were neither soft nor heavy. Although the heaviness of the Heavy Xuan Ruler was enough to shock anyone who came into contact with it, Xiao Yan was already extremely familiar with its weight after being in contact with it for two years. As a result, he was not the slightest bit delayed despite traveling with it. Only shallow footsteps remained where his feet landed, leaving no signs of the awkward scene back then when a deep pit was left where his feet stepped.

Leaving a footprint with every step, Xiao Yan moved at a steady pace. Although his figure appeared skinny, it emitted a calmness and easy going manner which caused people to throw him a sidelong glance.

Walking with a calm heart in this manner was not a total waste of effort on Xiao Yan's part. When he had just left the city's gate, threads of his Qi were still repeatedly overflowing from within his body due to him having just broken through to the Da Dou Shi class, causing the surrounding passerby to involuntarily stay away from Xiao Yan. The pressuring Qi was not something these Dou Zhe or those who were not even Dou Zhe could withstand.

Since Xiao Yan began walking until this moment, his Qi, which was overflowing out of his body, had already begun intruding into the deep regions of his body. When one looked over again, he did not appear any different from an ordinary person other than the huge ruler behind his

back.

When the sun had broken through the restraint of the horizon and slowly climbed high into the sky, Xiao Yan finally stopped walking. He stood on the slope and eyed the huge foot of the mountain which was at the edge of his sight. Huge army tents began to appear on the grass plain. Through the white-colored tents, Xiao Yan could faintly see some soldiers being drilled.

“It is indeed as others have said. The Jia Ma Empire Imperial family has stationed elite troops at the foot of the Misty Cloud Mountain.” Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze, shook his head, and walked down the slope. He followed the main road and slowly neared the foot of the mountain.

Although this was a military camp with extremely tight defence, it did not obstruct any passerby who wanted to ascend the mountain. Therefore, after being randomly glanced at by some sentries standing by the side of the road, Xiao Yan easily followed the main road and climbed up the foot of the mountain.

As fresh green color began to appear on both sides of Xiao Yan, the sound of troops performing drills gradually disappeared from the side of his ears. He lifted his head slightly and green rock stairs, that reached the limits of his sight, appeared in front of him. At one glance, it appeared like a flight of stairs which led to the heavens.

Standing at the bottom, Xiao Yan lifted his head and eyed these old stone stairs which had been around for an unknown number of years. His eyes were slowly shut. There appeared to be a vague and soft ringing of swords being clearly transmitted from the edge of the rock stairs as it quietly reverberated through the forest. It was like a clock chiming, intoxicating people's minds.

The silence persisted for a while before Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes. He gently patted the Heavy Xuan Sword which lay on his back. His gentle footstep finally landed firmly on the ancient rock stairs which appeared a little moist. At this moment, he had officially arrived for the Three Years Agreement.

The moment his footstep landed, Xiao Yan was able to sense that his spirit appeared to be releasing a Qi which he had suppressed for three years.

Three years ago, a young man left his home while carrying hatred, humiliation, and anger, appearing both reckless and childish. He entered the mountain range and ventured into the desert. Under blade, blood, and flame, he was like a pupa, swiftly changing himself. Three years had milled away his tenderness and witnessed his growth. All of this effort was because of today's three year agreement!

An unknown emotion filled his chest as Xiao Yan's footsteps maintained a uniform speed. His gaze stared directly at the end of the rock stairs as he passed by one step at a time. Appearing to have passed through the obstruction of space, his gaze was shot onto the young lady's body which was seated cross-legged at the peak of the mountain.

"Nalan Yanran." Xiao Yan's mouth moved slightly. His voice was calm as it carried some other emotions when the name quietly left Xiao Yan's mouth.

Fog shrouded the end of the long rock stairs. Behind it, was a huge open ground. The entire place was completely built using huge rocks of uniform color, appearing ancient and grand. A huge towering stone monument stood in the middle of the open ground. On the stone monument, there was a record of the names of past sect leaders and those who had been of great service to the sect.

As one watched the surroundings of the open ground, one could see nearly a thousand people seated above this open ground. These people were seated in a semicircle. Without exception, all of them wore moon white-colored robes. A cloud with a long sword striking through on their sleeves fluttered with the wind, much like something alive, faintly emitting a little weak meaning of the sword.

At the highest spot of the open ground, there were some towering rock chairs by the stairs which deviated from the rest. As the stairs gradually went up, those seated were generally older. The highest stone platform

was currently empty without a single person on it. Below it, there were over ten white-robed old men who were seated cross-legged as they closed their eyes and rested. On the surface, one could not see even the slightest uniqueness from these old people, but the robes on their bodies, which were like steel that did not even make the slightest movement regardless of how the wind blew, was sufficient to let people know that these old people were not simple individuals.

Under these white-robed old men, there was an independant stone seat. A lady wearing moon robes had her eyes closed. As the wind blew past, her clothes pressed onto her pretty figure, revealing the perfect curves and figure underneath. As one's focus shifted to the calm and indifferent pretty face, she was surprisingly Nalan Yanran!

Although there was only around a thousand people present above the open ground, the place was entirely quiet. Other than the whistling of the wind, there was not the slightest bit of strange noise emitted.

Occasionally, a quiet strong wind would blow past the open ground. Immediately, everyone's eyes saw white robes drifting, much like the clouds in the sky descending. Such a sight was really shocking when one glanced over it.

Occasionally, a sound of rushing wind would suddenly appear in midair. Immediately, a human figure would appear on the towering tip of a tree. As one cast a glance, one would realize that there were actually quite a number of human figures standing on the top of some of the huge trees around the open ground. Not only was Hai Bodong present, but also Fa Ma and Jia Xing Tian. Even Nalan Jie along with the heads of a few clans and their youngest generations like Mu Zhan who had some conflict with Xiao Yan in the past, were also present. It appeared that there were indeed quite a number of people who were invited by the Misty Cloud Sect this time around.

The human figures who had come over did not recklessly make any noise and break the quiet atmosphere of the open ground. Although some of the strong Misty Cloud Sect disciples sensed these guests who had arrived, they did not have even the slightest reaction. They merely quietly

sat cross-legged on the ground. It appeared that they have already received some orders.

Standing on the top of a tree, Hai Bodong's gaze slowly swept across the quiet square. His face was slightly grave. Looking through the eyes of a strong person like him, one could naturally find some of the details which other people had difficulty discovering. From his senses, the breathing of the nearly one thousand Misty Cloud Sect disciples were actually completely following the same rhythm. The breathing of each of them led the other. If one moved anywhere, one would receive a swift and violent continuous attack much like a storm. In this entire place, these thousand people appeared to be of one body. When they struck, the thousand of them would attack together. Even a Dou Huang would have to temporarily avoid their cutting edge.

"They truly are worthy of being the Misty Cloud Sect." Hai Bodong sighed gently in his heart. He could not help but praise with a sigh. Just how difficult was it to train all these disciples to coordinate with such deep understanding?

Hai Bodong turned his head over and exchanged glances with Fa Ma and Jia Lao. He was able to see a grave look from within the other party's eyes. Clearly, the unified large array of the Misty Cloud Sect also caused them to feel fear within their hearts.

The spacious square was totally quiet. Time slowly and quietly drew by.

The huge sun on the sky slowly climbed until its peak. The warm sunlight was poured down, spreading across the entire peak.

At one instance, a soft footstep suddenly and quietly sounded from below the green-colored rock stairs outside the square. The soft sound was slowly transmitted over, causing a slight change in the completely integrated breaths.

In the open ground, all of disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect opened their eyes. Their gazes were fixed on the green rock stairs. Footsteps which were neither light nor heavy were being emitted from that spot.

On the stone platform, Nalan Yanran had also gradually opened her

bright pupils. Her gaze paused at the spot. For some unknown reason, her already indifferent heart suddenly began to jump a couple of times in a disorderly manner.

The sound of the footsteps grew increasingly close and clear. It reached the point where it caused the few white-robed old men on the stone platform to open their eyes and throw their gazes at the same spot.

From the distant sky, sunlight suddenly poured down. It passed through the cover of the misty cloud layer and coincidentally shone on the rock stairs. At that spot, a tall and skinny figure finally began to slowly appear in front of countless of gazes.

Under the watch of nearly a thousand pairs of eyes on the open ground, the black-robed young man carrying a huge black ruler on his back lifted his feet and climbed the final step of the stairs.

The gaze of the young man was void of joy or sorrow as it swept across the huge square. Finally, it stopped on a beautiful lady on the stone platform who was similarly throwing him a pair of bright pupils.

Xiao Yan gently lifted his foot and then placed it down. He repeated the same action for three steps. Only the soft and deep sound of his footsteps drifted across the silent square.

Once the three steps fell, the young man lifted his head. He watched the lady and opened his mouth faintly.

“Xiao clan, Xiao Yan!”

Chapter 334: Three Year Agreement

The dull and simple words slowly drifted across the huge square. They caused the calm atmosphere which had been present throughout the entire ground to be in slight unrest and disorder.

In the open ground, countless Misty Cloud Sect disciples carried all sorts of different emotions in their gazes as they stared at the black-robed young man near the edge of the rock stairs. They were not unfamiliar with this young man who was called Xiao Yan. The relationship between Nalan Yanran and him had already become a topic in everyday conversation of many Misty Cloud Sect disciples. Of course, each time his name was mentioned, most people would refer to it mockingly with disdain. A child of a small clan wanted to marry Nalan Yanran whose status within the Misty Cloud Sect was as noble as a princess. In these people's eyes, it undoubtedly appeared that Xiao Yan had overestimated his ability. This was especially so after the Three Year Agreement was spread within the sect. This ridicule became even stronger. Naturally, one of the reasons for ridicule did not exclude them being jealous.

As the junior sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect which was beyond the reach of many, countless of Misty Cloud Sect disciples viewed her as the goddess in their hearts. When they met, these people had always faced her exquisite face which had maintained an indifferent and other-worldly expression. Anyone who wanted to come into closer contact with her would return in failure. Xiao Yan, as the man who had nearly become Nalan Yanran's husband would naturally and easily receive some abnormal jealousy.

Due to the jealousy, along with some rumors, these Misty Cloud Sect disciples would naturally have a poor impression of Xiao Yan whom they had never met before. When they spoke, most of them would degrade him as much as possible, appearing as though they would not stop until they described Xiao Yan as being totally worthless.

However, as they eyed the young man who still maintained a calm and leisurely manner despite facing the united Qi of nearly a thousand Misty

Cloud Sect disciples, some of the more astute disciples felt a little awed in their hearts after they discarded the negative emotions within their hearts. This indifferent attitude did not appear to be something that the trash of the Xiao clan, whom their comrades had usually spoke of, could do.

Nalan Yanran's bright eyes stared at the young man with a slightly skinny figure a short distance away. Her gaze paused on that delicate and handsome face. At that spot, she could still vaguely recognize the outline of the young man back then. It was just that three years had grinded off the tenderness and sharpness of youth. The young man currently in front of her no longer had the cutting edge vigor which had suddenly erupted in the hall of the Xiao clan's home back then. Replacing it was a profound restraint.

"He really has changed." A sentence quietly popped up within her mind. Nalan Yanran's gaze was a little complicated. She had never thought that the useless person back then would actually really be able come to the Misty Cloud Sect without fear, much less remaining as indifferent as the wind while not revealing the slightest anxiety or paleness, even when faced with nearly a thousand disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect.

"Nalan clan, Nalan Yanran."

Nalan Yanran slowly stood up. Her pretty figure was tall and straight much like a proud and unyielding snow lotus. Her bright eyes stared at Xiao Yan while her voice was as calm as the latter.

"That is the little fellow of the Xiao clan? Wasn't it said that he was a useless person who could not store Dou Qi?" On the huge tree, Jia Xing Tian eyed Xiao Yan with a pair of eyes that contained some astonishment. He softly laughed, "Ke ke, but seeing this bearing of his, he does not look like a person who forcefully pretends to have strong exterior while being empty inside. Moreover, even if his calmness is acted out, being able to maintain this calm in front of the united force created by those old fellows of the Misty Cloud Sect is not something an ordinary person can do."

Fa Ma, who was a short distance away from Jia Xing Tian nodded slightly. His old and sharp eyes slowly swept across Xiao Yan. A moment

later, he paused on the latter's face. His eyebrows were suddenly knit slightly together as he said, "For some unknown reason, he seems to have a familiar feeling about him."

"Ke ke, you also have such a feeling?" Hearing this, Jia Xing Tian laughed softly. His eyes were filled with a deep meaning as he stared at Xiao Yan and said, "Looks like we may have seen him somewhere before."

The frown on Fa Ma's forehead deepened a little. His eyes flickered as he stared at Xiao Yan, but did he not continue to say anything more.

"Hei, old man Nalan, is this the young fellow from the Xiao clan who nearly became the son-in-law of the Nalan clan? He doesn't appear to be the useless person from the rumors. This bearing and mental strength is something that I have hardly seen in the young people whom I have met." Mu Chen turned his head and said. He smiled at Nalan Jie, whose eyes had paused on Xiao Yan's body since the beginning. He gloated a little within his smile. A son-in-law who was abandoned because he was thought to be useless had currently appeared even more outstanding than some of those who were called geniuses. Although Nalan Jie would not feel pain until the point that he did not want to live because of this, he would more or less feel a little upset.

Nalan Jie's expression was ugly as he ferociously cut Mu Chen with his gaze. He was too lazy to say any unnecessary things to him. With a cold laugh, he continued to focus his gaze on that delicate and handsome man. The emotions in his heart rolled.

Although Nalan Jie had already known that Xiao Yan had abandoned the reputation of being a useless person for quite some time, the calmness and mental strength which the latter currently displayed caused his heart to feel a great shock. On top of this shock, he also sighed softly in a regretful manner. With the situation having reached this point, saying anything more would not help change the situation. He could only hope that the grudges between Xiao Yan and Nalan Yanran would thaw after this Three Year Agreement was over. It was best if they could reconcile. Of course, this may well be an unrealistic dream. Even if the two of them could no longer be together in the future, allowing Xiao Yan to cease

carrying hatred toward the Nalan clan in the future would cause Nalan Jie to quietly feel a little better. After all from how Nalan Jie currently saw it, this young fellow basically possessed all the requirements to be a strong person.

An outstanding mental strength, excellent training talent and the perseverance to continue struggling for three years just for a promise. With these few things, Xiao Yan's future path toward becoming a strong person will be much smoother and unobstructed. Nalan Jie did not think that being the target of the grudge belonging to a young man with limitless potential was something that one could be happy about.

"Looks like I should send someone to get in contact with the Xiao clan." Nalan Jie softly sighed in his heart as he shook his head. He threw his attention to the open ground. The current him could only wait for the Three Year Agreement which was about to begin.

After Nalan Yanran stood up, the ten plus white robed men above the square had finally begun to slowly open their eyes. Their gazes were thrown on the black-robed young man on the rock stairs. As they exchanged glances with one another, they felt an astonishment. The uncertainty in their hearts was exactly the same as what was within Nalan Jie and the others. No matter which direction one looked at the currently Xiao Yan, one could not see the Xiao clan's trash who suffered all sorts of ridicule back then.

"You are Xiao Yan from the Xiao clan?" A white robed old man who was at the center raised his eyes and scanned Xiao Yan. After a while, he slowly opened his mouth and spoke those words.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept across the white robed old man at the middle. He realized that this person should have quite a high position within the Misty Cloud Sect. Ever since the latter opened his mouth, the surrounding old men wearing a similar robe remained silent.

"I am the First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect, Yun Leng." Before Xiao Yan could respond, the old man simply continued as he pleased and said, "The sect leader has yet to return today. Therefore, the Three Year Agreement

this time around will be presided over by the old me. The purpose of the competition this time around is to learn from each other. Stop when you...”

“Life and death are dictated by the heavens.” A soft voice suddenly sounded, interrupting Yun Leng’s words.

The gazes on the open ground turned towards the voice. Finally they paused on the body of the quiet black-robed young man. All of their expressions were different. Many people did not expect that Xiao Yan would actually say such words. One should know that his opponent was the Misty Cloud Sect’s successor whom the sect had focused on grooming.

“Ke ke, a bold young man.” Above the tall trees, some old fellows with strange characters could not resist laughing. Some of them even raised their thumbs at Xiao Yan.

Nalan Yanran’s eyes were lifted slightly. She watched the black-robed young man in front of her. Within those dark black eyes appeared to be a pulsing and fluctuating light, which was difficult to hide. Was that resentment?

A long while later, she nodded her head. Her voice was cool. “As you wish.”

Hearing Nalan Yanran’s response, Yun Leng knit his eyebrows slightly together. The sudden interruption from Xiao Yan had caused this First Elder who held quite a high position in the Misty Cloud Sect to be displeased. He was also aware that Xiao Yan had already been removed of his reputation of being trash a long time ago. However, Nalan Yanran’s talent was also not lower than his. Additionally, there was the Misty Cloud Sect grooming her. The growth of her strength could be called extremely rapid. If they were to fight, Yun Leng was not optimistic of Xiao Yan’s chances.

“Young man, you should always leave some leeway in everything you do. But since you have made such a request, do as you like. Life and death will be determined by the heavens.” Yun Leng waved his hands and said faintly.

An arc was lifted at the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth. In his heart, he could not resist laughing coldly. Leave some leeway? Back then, Nalan Yanran had been ruthless. Did anyone ask her to leave some room for others?

Xiao Yan's hand slowly held the hilt of the ruler. He abruptly drew it out and the Heavy Xuan Ruler carried the sound of wind being compressed. It slanted toward the ground and a breeze was created from its body, stirring all the dust on the ground. A faint green-colored Dou Qi shrouded the surface of his body as Xiao Yan stared at Nalan Yanran. "I have come according to the Three Year Agreement. Today, let's settle all of our past grudges. Please repay all the humiliation that you have given the Xiao clan back then."

Nalan Yanran extended her hand and an emerald-colored storage ring glow on her finger flashed. A long pale green-colored sword appeared. The sword edge was slightly tilted, reflecting a dense coldness under the pouring sunlight.

Nalan Yanran's pretty eyes exchanged glances with that pair of dark black pupils. She sighed a little regretfully as she faintly said, "I will be in charge of my own marriage. Even though three years have passed, I do not think that I did anything wrong back then. I have the right to choose my fate. Perhaps some of my actions were inappropriate when I was choosing, however, I think that I would still make this choice even if I could go back in time."

"Your actions were inappropriate?" Xiao Yan laughed softly. Just a simple inappropriate action and she wanted to shrink away from her own rude and unreasonable behavior? Was this not far too simple?

Xiao Yan's expression gradually returned to its indifferentness. The palm holding the ruler's hilt was becoming increasingly tight. A moment later, his foot abruptly took a step forward. On the spot where it landed, the hard green rock surface actually had a few crack lines spreading out. A ferocious and surging green-colored Dou Qi which contained some green-colored flame seedlings violently surged on Xiao Yan's surface.

“Let’s begin.”

Chapter 335: Nalan Yanran, Defeated?

Sensing the rise of strong Dou Qi on Xiao Yan's body, astonishment flashed across Nalan Yanran's pupils. This young man who had endured supercilious looks and ridicule in the Xiao clan back then was now really totally different.

As Nalan Yanran held the pale green longsword in her hand, a faint green-colored swirling wind rolled and drifted on her body. Sharp wind blades retracted and appeared within the swirling wind. Occasionally they would blast out, leaving numerous scars which were neither shallow nor deep in the tough green rock. The blades gradually moved up, pointing at Xiao Yan from far away. Under the reflection of the sunlight, the edge of the blades emitted dense and stern glows.

As the Dou Qi on the both of them soared, the atmosphere of the open ground instantly flew heavy. The surroundings had once again become quiet as all the gazes were thrown on the two people. Many of them wanted to know just how far the useless young person back then had actually reached after these three years of training?

In the square, Xiao Yan slowly closed his eyes and immediately exhaled a long breath. His eyes were suddenly shot opened and a green-colored flame flashed passed his dark black eyes. The Dou Qi on his body had once again become much deeper at this moment.

Xiao Yan's palm tightly held the ruler's hilt and sensed the heavy feeling that was repeatedly transmitted to him. He raised his eyes and stared at the lady with a willow like figure opposite him. The two exchanged glances in midair. Both of their gazes were somewhat complicated.

"Once the Three Year Agreement is complete, the grudges between the two of you will be completely settled. I hope that after today, all the disputes..." On the stone platform, Yun Leng eyed the two people who were giving tit for a tat. He coughed softly. However, before he could say all that he wanted to, his expression once again became ugly as he stopped his mouth. This was because Xiao Yan, who was on the open

ground, had already ignored his words under the watch of countless of gazes. He was the first to break the stalemate of their imposing presences. Xiao Yan swung the heavy ruler and his body suddenly turned into a black shadow as he violently charged at Nalan Yanran.

“Let’s fight! Nalan Yanran! It has been three years!” As the black shadow charged, a low roar which had been suppressed for three years was involuntarily emitted from within his throat.

Under the gaze of everyone on the open ground, the black shadow was like an outraged Magical Beast. The Heavy Xuan Ruler gently nestled on the ground. Along the way, it left a long trail of sparks and a deep scar on the green rock surface.

Nalan Yanran’s expression was calm as she faced the black shadow which charged directly at her. Her Qi Method was of the wind affinity. Therefore, her speed and brisk agility were things that she was very good in. Just as Xiao Yan was about to approach a distance of ten meters from her, Nalan Yanran finally made her move. Her toes gently pressed against the surface of the ground and her body was like a falling leaf amidst a violent storm, drifting and evading. In the twinkle of an eye, she interlaced with the black-colored human figure rushing over as they passed by each other.

The moment they intersected, the longsword in Nalan Yanran’s hand slash horizontally in an extremely natural manner. Borrowing the rushing force from her agility, a few tiny wind blades had already taken the lead and left the sword ahead of her, cutting toward Xiao Yan’s neck.

The swiftly charging body abruptly stopped and a huge black ruler was lifted slightly. Following a ‘clanging’ sound and some tiny sparks, the wind blades completely disappeared without even creating the slightest obstruction to Xiao Yan’s attack.

After withstanding the wind blades, Xiao Yan gently lifted his eyes. His indifferent pupils glanced at the graceful body that brushed past him. With a wave of his hand, the Heavy Xuan Ruler carried a ferocious force as it smashed horizontally toward Nalan Yanran’s back. The pressure from

the force caused the dress of Nalan Yanran to press tightly onto her skin, outlining her slim narrow waist.

Sensing the whirring sound of the heavy force behind her, Nalan Yanran's eyebrows twitched gently. She appeared a little surprised at the acuteness of the other party's perception. The longsword in her hand stabbed out violently, causing the pale green longsword to leave a green-colored arc within the empty air. The sharp tip of the sword appeared to pass through the obstruction in the air and with a clear 'clang' sound, the sword tip directly smashed into the heavy ruler. As the two came into contact, the strong and powerful force contained on the huge ruler caused the slender longsword to be forced to bend into an arc which was extremely soul-stirring. The alarmingly dangerous appearance of the sword being about to snap caused some astonishment to surface on the faces of those Misty Cloud Sect disciples. After having Dou Qi poured into the sword's body, the sword was sufficiently strengthened to receive an extremely great and heavy force. Yet, in the very first contact, the longsword was forced to bend. From this, it could be seen just how terrifying the force contained on the black-colored large ruler was.

Although the longsword was bent into an alarming arc, it ultimately did not break because of this. Just as the tip of the sword was about to press on Nalan Yanran's arm, the latter pressed her feet gently on the ground. The green glow on the longsword skyrocketed. The sudden energy surge flicked the heavy ruler aside with a 'bang'. Borrowing the pushing force from between the two of them, Nalan Yanran soared up into the air. Her pretty face was serious. The longsword in her hand suddenly trembled rapidly. Immediately, it began to slowly spin. Each time the longsword moved by a little, it would leave behind a sword shadow afterimage that seemed substantive.

"Wind Spirit Fractal Sword?"

"It is really unexpected that Nalan shi-jie actually managed to successfully learn a Middle Xuan class Dou technique like the 'Wind Spirit Fractal Sword'. She is really a source of admiration."

TL: shi-jie – an older female of the same generation who shares the same

teacher or is from the same sect

“I heard that Nalan shi-jie has managed to reach the point of creating five sword images after learning ‘Wind Spirit Fractal Sword’ for a year. Ah, I have trained for nearly two years, but I can only create four of them.”

“It has only just begun yet Nalan shi-jie has actually used a Dou Technique of this class. I think that she wants to quickly end this, no? That fellow from the Xiao Yan is really unlucky.”

When Nalan Yanran displayed that strange Dou Technique, those Misty Cloud Sect’s disciple below could not resist whispering privately among themselves in their shock. Seeing their manner, it appeared that they recognized the background of the Dou Technique that was displayed. Moreover, this Dou Technique was likely something that was regarded as something difficult to be proficient at. Not only these disciples, but even a few of the ten plus white robed elders on the stone platform nodded their heads slightly.

The heavy ruler inserted in the ground as Xiao Yan lifted his head. With narrow eyes, he watched the energy after images that were slowly appearing following the movement of Nalan Yanran’s longword. Relying on his outstanding perception, he could sense that the few afterimages contained a huge amount of energy within them.

“She is worthy of being called the junior sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect. She is able to use such a strong Dou Technique as she pleases.” Xiao Yan held the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightly in his palm. He slowly rotated half a circle while being on the ground. Immediately, he stomped heavily on the ground and an energy explosion blasted from where his foot was, pulling over all the gazes on the open ground.

Following the explosion, Xiao Yan borrowed the reflected energy from it and his body suddenly shot violently and directly at Nalan Yanran in midair. The green-colored Dou Qi surged forth and threads of flame seedlings strangely twined around the ruler’s body. However, they were hidden under the green-colored Dou Qi and one would have difficulty discovering them if one did not perform a careful inspection.

Nalan Yanran knit her eyebrows slightly together as she glanced at Xiao Yan who was violently shooting toward her from below. The movement of the longsword in her hand did not stop because of this. Her feet stepped on empty air and a pale green-colored Dou Qi spewed out from her feet. Instantly, it formed huge sharp wind blades and viciously cut toward Xiao Yan.

Sensing the rushing wind sound of the wind blades from above his head, Xiao Yan raised his hand and nothing happened for a second. Then, a pushing force that shot above Xiao Yan surged from Xiao Yan's palm. The huge group of wind blades disappeared completely by this pushing force before they could be anywhere near Xiao Yan.

Due to this pushing force, Xiao Yan's charging figure had also become slightly slower. Xiao Yan was about to once again borrow a timely force as he prepared to block Nalan Yanran from completing her Dou Technique when a clear cry suddenly sounded from a spot not far above him.

“Wind Spirit Fractal Sword!”

As the cry fell, the longsword in Nalan Yanran's hand abruptly pointed at Xiao Yan below. Her feet pressed gently on the empty air and a faint breeze appeared under them. Borrowing this breeze, Nalan Yanran swiftly moved backward. The five blurry energy sword afterimages that were left behind in mid air trembled slightly. One after another, they shot violently toward Xiao Yan below.

The blurred swords made up of energy appeared to have torn space as a pale green-colored energy arc began to spread out from the tip of the sword. Five sword shadows that had their tips linked to the other's hilt much like a falling star from the sky.

With a slight frown, Xiao Yan's palm randomly discharged a force. His body borrowed the pushing strength of the force to retreat swiftly. The five blurry energy swords coincidentally cut past the surface of his body and their sharp wind caused Xiao Yan's skin to feel a keen pain.

Nalan Yanran's pretty figure turned half a circle in midair. Immediately, she became like a white-colored lotus as she landed on the ground in a

light and agile manner. She suddenly waved her hand horizontally. As she did so, the blurred energy swords which had missed actually turned around and once again violently stabbed toward Xiao Yan who was in midair, without any point to pivot himself.

Eyeing the blurry energy swords which had once again come to pierce him, Xiao Yan was a little startled. Immediately, he frowned slightly as the corner of his gaze drifted around him. Being in mid-air, he really had difficulty avoiding the swift and sudden attacks of these blurry energy sword this time around unless he used the Purple Cloud Wings.

“Since I cannot dodge, then I will forcefully receive it.” As this intention fell within his heart, the green-colored Dou Qi on the heavy ruler in his hand abruptly soared. That huge energy that was suddenly released caused countless of people below to have astonished faces.

The green-colored flame seedlings flashed and rose. As the heavy ruler was swung, it carried a powerful force as it viciously smashed at the blurry energy swords in front of the shocked gazes under him.

“Bang!”

As the two came into contact, a ferocious energy explosion sounded in the empty space above the open ground. The intense green light caused some people to involuntarily shut their eyes.

Nalan Yanran quietly stood in the same spot while she raised her head to watch the sky. The piercing green light did not appear to be much of an obstacle for her as her bright pupils stared at the spot where the explosion occurred. She understood only too clearly just what kind of power the ‘Wind Spirit Fractal Sword’ possessed. The blow earlier was something that even a seven star Dou Shi would have great difficulty completely withstanding. If Xiao yan was able to resist this strike, Nalan Yanran would also be able to roughly estimate just what extent he had reached during these three years.

The green light was gradually being reduced in the sky. A black-colored shadow abruptly shot explosively toward Nalan Yanran who was standing on the ground. A powerful sound of wind compressing caused one’s

eardrums to feel pain.

The speed of the black-colored shadow's violent attack caused Nalan Yanran's pretty face to change a little. Her toes pressed on the ground as she instantly pulled back nearly ten meters with her body appearing as though it was gliding over the ground.

"Bang!" The black-colored shadow violently landed on the ground and heavily smashed at the spot where Nalan Yanran had landed earlier. Immediately, an intense sound reverberated throughout the square. Rock fragments flew around and numerous crack lines began spreading around the spot permeated with dust.

Nalan Yanran's retreating body slowly came to a stop. She faintly eyed the spot which was pervaded with dust. With such an attack speed, it was not quite possible for it to pose much of a threat to someone like her who trained in a wind affinity Qi Method.

Nalan Yanran gently waved her spacious large sleeves. A breeze appeared out of nowhere and blew over the square, lifting off the dust around. The moment before the dust was lifted, Nalan Yanran's eyes shrunk slightly. The Dou Qi all over her body abruptly skyrocketed. At the same time, her body swiftly retreated, she repeatedly swung the longsword in her hand. Numerous sharp sword fragments appeared on the route which she used to pull back.

"Chi." At the very moment when Nalan Yanran was pulling back, a black figure from within the dust once again shot explosively forward. This time around, the speed appeared to have instantly become many times higher than what it was earlier. The terrifying speed caused the black shadow to appear as though it were flickering. A few illusionary shadows surfaced before he approached Nalan Yanran. The wind blade blockade which she had placed earlier was completely shattered by the former in the most violent method.

"Quite a good speed, but how can it suddenly increase by this much?" A seriousness and some uncertainty surfaced on her pretty face as Nalan Yanran mumbled quietly within her heart. Her eyes glanced at the black

shadow which appeared formidable as it charged over. She was just thinking of taking offensive measures when a cold feeling suddenly rushed out from her skin. She suddenly turned her head. A black shadow had appeared behind her just like a ghost.

The black shadow raised its head, revealing Xiao Yan's indifferent face. The current him had his hands tightly clenched into fists. The huge black-colored Heavy Xuan Ruler had already completely disappeared. His fist borrowed the force from his half-rotated body as it viciously smashed at Nalan Yanran's back while carrying a terrifying force. The space where the fist passed by actually emitted an ear-piercing energy explosion. This blow was actually this strong.

“Octane Blast!”

A low roar sounded within Xiao Yan's heart. The force contained in the fist once again soared. Finally, it smashed solidly on Nalan Yanran's back in front of those stunned gazes of the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples around them.

The terrifying force directly caused Nalan Yanran's pretty body to be thrown into midair like a kite whose strings had been cut off. She was like a weak flower that was being scraped away by a violent wind.

Xiao Yan slowly exhaled. He gradually spread his fist and beckoned with his hand. The black shadow which had shot toward Nalan Yanran a moment ago flew over. Immediately, it was inserted heavily into the green rock surface in front of him. The large shadow which had attracted Nalan Yanran's attention earlier was actually this Heavy Xuan Ruler.

“Nalan shi-jie has been defeated?”

Countless of stunned gazes eyed Nalan Yanran who fell from midair like a butterfly which had lost its wings. Their faces were filled with disbelief. This junior sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect had actually been so easily defeated?

On the stone platform, Yun Leng and the other elders merely calmly watched Nalan Yanran who was slowly descending. If one thought that she would lose so easily, one would have really underestimated the

training of the Misty Cloud Sect.

Chapter 336: The True Strength of Both Parties

All the gazes on the open ground paused on the slowly descending Nalan Yanran. All of their expressions were different as they did so.

“This fellow seems to be quite good.” On top of a huge tree, Jia Xing Tian smiled as he stared at Xiao Yan. Immediately, he shook his head and said, “Unfortunately, the attack this time round did not cause much damage to Nalan Yanran even though it appeared ferocious. The ‘Flying Floc’ agility Dou Technique does indeed live up to its name.”

“Ah.” Fa Ma by the side nodded slightly. His gaze stared at the falling Nalan Yanran and softly laughed, “The girl from the Nalan clan is not weak either. It looks like Yun Yun has really tried her best to groom that girl during these three years.”

Hai Bodong frowned slightly. He stared at Nalan Yanran and his eyebrows abruptly twitched a moment later. “The energy within her body is swiftly increasing. Additionally, it faintly has the sign of having broken the limit of a Dou Shi. Tsk tsk. What a profound method of hiding her strength. Even I did not discover it. The secret technique of the Misty Cloud Sect is indeed extraordinary.”

Jia Xing Tian and Fa Ma smiled. Regardless of how one put it, the training that Nalan Yanran received as the next Misty Cloud Sect’s sect leader was naturally not something that an ordinary Misty Cloud Sect disciple could compare with. Moreover, the Misty Cloud Sect also had Pill-King Gu He’s help. Adding all these to Nalan Yanran’s strong foundation, it was not considered ridiculous for her to reach the Da Dou Shi class at this age.

“Looks like the fight this time around is going to be somewhat intense. That little fellow from the Xiao clan is also not someone ordinary. In addition, the huge black ruler in his hand is also a little strange.” Fa Ma stared at the Heavy Xuan Ruler in Xiao Yan’s hand as he spoke.

“Seeing the airflow which he creates when his feet land on the ground, that ruler seems to have some weight. Have the both of you realized that after the ruler leaves his hand, not only did his speed increase, but even the eruption and density of his Dou Qi had instantly become much stronger.” Jia Xing Tian was worthy of being a strong person who even Hai Bodong feared. Even the slight movement when Xiao Yan landed on the ground was actually observed by him to such a detail.

“Yes.” Hearing Jia Xing Tian words, Fa Ma nodded slightly. It appeared that he had also sensed these changes.

“From the looks of things now, this competition will be a hard-fought one. But what causes me to be curious is what exactly does this little fellow rely on? He is actually able to escape from the reputation of being a useless person three years ago and catch up with the progress of Nalan Yanran, who has received the Misty Cloud Sect’s training, with such swiftness.” Jia Xing Tian was uncertain as he softly said.

“I don’t know. Our Alchemist Association has never met him so we have never investigated him.” Fa Ma shook his head. His gaze glanced at the open ground and suddenly said, “That girl from the Nalan clan is about to use her true strength.”

The slowly falling Nalan Yanran strangely floated in the air just as she was around half a meter from the ground. She gently waved her hand and her body flipped in the air. After which, she landed on the hard green rock surface in a light and agile manner.

Eyeing Nalan Yanran, who was actually unhurt after landing on the ground, a sigh of relief involuntarily sounded throughout the square.

Nalan Yanran’s pretty eyes were serious. She eyed Xiao Yan on the opposite side whose expression was still calm. In a soft voice, she said, “You have really surprised me. No matter what, I, at the very least, believe that you are no longer that useless young master of the Xiao clan from back then.”

Xiao Yan did not give any reply to the somewhat lamenting words of Nalan Yanran. He merely lifted his eyes and glanced indifferently at her.

As he sensed the slowly soaring pale-green-colored energy within Nalan Yanran, he softly mumbled in his heart, “Is she finally about to display her true ability?”

“I do not want to say anything more about all that happened back then.” Nalan Yanran slowly raised her hand. The green glow above the pale-green-colored longsword became increasingly dense as her gaze stared at Xiao Yan. “But the current me represents the Misty Cloud Sect. I will not hold anything back for its reputation.”

As Nalan Yanran’s voice slowly fell, the robe on her body and her black hair on her head suddenly moved despite the absence of wind. A forceful presence gradually rose from within her body. The extent of the strength of the imposing presence caused the surrounding Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples to widen their mouths in shock. Numerous soft cries involuntarily sounded, “This Qi... has Nalan shi-jie advanced to a Da Dou Shi?”

Seeing the expressions of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples around, it appeared that even they were uncertain about Nalan Yanran’s actual strength.

“It is really unexpected that niece Nalan has already reached the Da Dou Shi class at such an age. She is really quite admirable.” Mu Chen turned his head and said with a smile to Nalan Jie after eyeing Nalan Yanran who was emitting a powerful force. His laughter contained some envy. Although Mu Zhan was currently a nine star Dou Shi and appeared to be merely half a step away from a Da Dou Shi, Mu Chen knew that this half a step was something that was extremely difficult to cross if one did not have sufficient luck.

“Nephew Mu Zhan is also not weak.” Nalan Jie smiled and gave a polite response. The strength that Nalan Yanran suddenly displayed also caused him to sigh in relief. Regardless of how one put it, Nalan Yanran was ultimately a member of the Nalan clan. If she were to lose this competition today, not only would the Misty Cloud Sect lose face, but the Nalan clan would also feel ashamed. Moreover, Nalan Yanran had even impulsively said that if she lost, she would become his slave when she

made the agreement back then. When he thought of the eldest young lady of the Nalan clan and the future successor of the Misty Cloud Sect becoming someone else's female servant, there was some indication of ugliness on Nalan Jie's old face.

"This girl." As he slowly released his breath, Nalan Jie eyed Xiao Yan who was calmly watching Nalan Yanran. He softly said, "Ah, nephew Xiao, I am really sorry. This competition has far too many complications for Nalan Yanran. I'm afraid that we can only wrong you. In the future, I will order the Nalan clan to compensate the Xiao clan."

Hearing his confident words, it appeared that he was not optimistic of Xiao Yan being able to win this competition. However, one could not blame him. Xiao Yan's current age was not even twenty. Regardless of how outstanding his training talent was, the difficulty of reaching the Da Dou Shi class at his age was extremely great. After all, he did not have the support of a huge faction like the Misty Cloud Sect behind him.

Of course, this was indeed so under normal circumstances. Were it not for the 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill', Xiao Yan would really only be lingering below that of a Da Dou Shi. Unfortunately, the situation Xiao Yan was in was not considered normal. Therefore, this thought of Nalan Jie was bound to be faced with disappointment.

The blazing sun hung high in the air and the sunlight poured down from the distant sky, dispersing the faint mist that shrouded the square. It shone upon the bodies of everyone present, causing their skin to feel a little warm.

The nearly one thousand Misty Cloud Sect disciples sat on the ground around the square, forming a semicircle. They sat on the rock surface like wooden pillars and the pouring sunlight from the sky did not cause their body to make even the slightest movement. The endurance of these people was something that Xiao Yan could not help but praise despite not having a good impression of the Misty Cloud Sect. Seeing how they were able to train the talented people whom had been picked up from all over the land in such a manner, the Misty Cloud Sect really did not simply rely on its empty reputation to stand above the Jia Ma Empire for so many years.

On the stone platform just behind the rock monument located at the middle of the square, the ten plus white robed old men were narrowing their old eyes as they watched the two people in the square. Occasionally, they would whisper something among themselves.

“First Elder, the fight has only just begun yet Nalan Yanran was forced to use her true strength. On the other hand, the little fellow from the Xiao clan appears to have remained very calm.” A white robed old man turned his head and softly said beside Yun Leng. His voice carried a little worry.

“His mindset is indeed quite good.” Yun Leng’s finger gently skimmed off some of the non-existent dust on his robe as he said casually, “But this kind of competition isn’t something where one can just rely on their mentality. The progress of Nalan Yanran during these few years is something that caused even us old fellows to feel shocked. Moreover, the sect leader appears to have passed her some of the sect’s secret technique. No matter how outstanding that young fellow’s talent is, at the very least, it is somewhat impossible for him to catch up with Nalan Yanran now. All of you need not be overly worried.”

“Since Nalan Yanran has already displayed her true strength, this battle should likely be over soon. Once we chase away that little fellow from the Xiao clan, I will not need to worry about it any longer.” Yun Leng faintly said.

Hearing Yun Leng put it in this manner, that white robed old man could not say anything more. He nodded his head, turned around and glanced at the rock platform below. Suddenly, he said, “Ge Ye, is something wrong?”

Upon hearing the question, a white robed old man who was sitting on the second level of the stone platform turned around. Seeing his appearance, it was surprising that Ge Ye was the one who had accompanied Nalan Yanran to the Xiao clan in order to cancel the engagement back then. His current expression was a little strange. Moreover, the source of the expression on his face seemed to be Xiao Yan in the open ground.

Ever since Xiao Yan appeared in his eyes earlier, Ge Ye’s expression had

turned into this manner. This was because he had discovered that the young man earlier had actually faintly appeared to be somewhat similar to the mysterious black robed person whom he had seen at the Mo clan within Yan City back then.

“Impossible. That mysterious man is a Dou Huang. With Xiao Yan’s age, even if he had the talent of the heavens, he cannot possibly reach that step!” Ge Ye violently shook his head, wanting to throw away the ridiculous thought within his mind. However, the two faces continued to slowly merge together. At one instance, when the two faces were completely merged together, Ge Ye’s entire body trembled. He exhaled his coarse breath as he recovered. He suddenly realized that his entire robe had actually been drenched in cold sweat.

“Are you alright?” The ten plus elders of the Misty Cloud Sect watched the cold sweat filled face of Ge Ye with surprise as they knit their eyebrows together and asked.

“It’s nothing.” Ge Ye swallowed a mouthful of saliva that had intruded into his dry throat. He hesitated for a moment, only to shake his head. He did not voice the thought within his heart. Even though the two faces appeared extremely similar, he still did not believe that the mysterious black robed person was Xiao Yan. If the latter really had that kind of strength, did he need to exhaust himself and come to have a tough fight with Nalan Yanran?

“It was definitely an illusion! Seeing his manner, he is at most at the Dou Shi class. No matter what, he is definitely not that mysterious black robed person!” Ge Ye clenched his teeth, slowly raised his head and continued to throw his gaze into the open ground.

On the open ground, Nalan Yanran’s rising imposing presence from within her body slowly stopped increasing when it finally reached the Da Dou Shi class. With the wave of the longsword in her hand, a clear ring of the sword sounded above the open ground in a relaxed manner.

At the tip of the sword, a green-colored sword’s aura was expanding and shrinking. It was pointed at Xiao Yan from a distant away and a wild wind

instantly appeared out of nowhere.

Eyeing Nalan Yanran on the opposite side as her force cease rising, Xiao Yan pursed up his lips. He softly muttered, “As expected. Around a two star Da Dou Shi.”

“Let’s start preparing to go all out.”

Xiao Yan twisted his neck and gently exhaled. His palm held the Heavy Xuan Ruler above the ground. Immediately, he used his strength to insert it into the ground. The green-colored Dou Qi on his body was like a flame as it abruptly surged. A long while later, the Dou Qi disappeared and a green-colored Dou Qi Armor appeared in front of everyone’s eyes.

“Dou Qi Armor? This fellow is also actually a Da Dou Shi!”

Eyeing the armor which appeared to be made up of a substantial substance, waves of noises made when inhaling cold air sounded around the open ground.

Chapter 337: An Intense Fight!

“This is going to be fun now.” Sensing the open ground which had suddenly become quiet, Jia Xing Tian stared at the Dou Qi armor on Xiao Yan’s body which was faintly emitting a green-colored glow. His face had some shock and amazement. This armor was only in its infancy shape, but regardless of how one put it, being able to summon it out meant that that person had already entered the Da Dou Shi class!

Reflecting on what he saw from this point, it appeared that the gap between Xiao Yan’s and Nalan Yanran’s strength was not very big. The thing that caused Jia Xing Tian to be shocked was how this little fellow of the Xiao clan, who did not have a strong backing behind him, could actually swiftly catch up to Nalan Yanran in these three short years. One should know that behind Nalan Yanran was this huge being known as the Misty Cloud Sect which was grooming her and providing support.

“This young fellow is not someone simple.” Jia Xing Tian and Fa Ma exchanged glances with each other. Both of them could see this emotion within the other’s eyes.

“Ah.”

On another side, Nalan Jie’s face which had only just relaxed for only a short while, then once again tensed up. His eyes stared intently at the Dou Qi armor on Xiao Yan’s body. A long while later, he finally let out a long breath. He slowly closed his eyes and the expression on his face held some bitterness.

This time around, Nalan Jie truly felt a regret. He regretted not having stopped Nalan Yanran back then. If Nalan Yanran did not create the whole issue of cancelling the engagement, this young person who relied on himself as he changed into a strong Da Dou Shi from a useless person in three short years would become a son-in-law whom the Nalan clan would be extremely satisfied with.

In the past, Nalan Jie was furious with Nalan Yanran’s act of cancelling the engagement because he was extremely prideful. The agreement he and

Xiao Yan's grandfather made was something that he felt humiliation for after she broke it off. If it were not because of this reason, who would be willing to let his own outstanding granddaughter marry a young master of the Xiao clan who was merely a useless person back then.

Now, however, the young man who had revealed his sharp edges in front of Nalan Jie caused the latter to clearly see the terrifying potential contained in the former's body. The value that such a potential could bring in the future had far exceeded the limit which Nalan Jie could imagine. He clearly understood that there was no large faction like the Misty Cloud Sect supporting Xiao Yan from behind. And even without such a support from behind, Xiao Yan, however, was still actually able to swiftly catch up to Nalan Yanran's speed within three years. This kind of training talent could only be described with one word: Terrifying!

Therefore, only at this moment did Nalan Jie really sense just how great a loss the Nalan clan had suffered through the impulsive action of Nalan Yanran back then. A Da Dou Shi that was not even twenty years old. Who could guarantee just what extent he would grow by after some years.

A Dou Wang was sufficient to support the entire Nalan clan. If Xiao Yan were to reach this class in the future, who could guarantee that the strength of the Xiao clan would not abruptly soar? It may even reach the point of threatening the three large clans.

As he thought of that serious consequence, the bitterness on Nalan Jie's face grew even denser. A long while later, he opened his eyes and once again let out a sigh. Suddenly, he appeared much older.

"Ah, Xiao Ling, you have such a good grandson."

By the side, Mu Chen and a few other heads of different factions eyed the bitter expression of Nalan Jie. Although they were wise enough not to prod the other person's wound, they could not help but gloat within their hearts. Due to Nalan Yanran, the relationship between the Nalan clan and the Misty Cloud Sect was increasingly close. This caused many groups within the capital to become a little afraid. The Nalan clan losing out was something that many were happy to see.

On the stone platform beside the open ground, the ten plus white robed old men were shocked until they were at a loss as they eyed the Dou Qi armor which Xiao Yan had suddenly summoned. A long while later, they gradually recovered. They exchanged glances with one another while serious expressions appeared on their faces for the first time. Looking at the current situation, it appeared that they had greatly underestimated this person who was once the trash of the Xiao clan.

“First Elder, this...” A white robed old man frowned slightly as he whispered.

“Let’s wait and see.” There was not much change on Yun Leng’s face. He gently waved his hand and suppressed the worry of the other few elders. His gaze rested on the skinny back of the young man in the square and slowly spoke, “Although his strength has somewhat exceeded my expectations, there is still some gap between him and Nalan Yanran. Moreover, the Dou Techniques that Nalan Yanran practices are all the advanced ones in our Misty Cloud Sect. On this point, I doubt that nameless little fellow can compare with her.”

“Let’s watch quietly.” Yun Leng’s gaze paused on the open ground. His face was calm, but the hands which were inserted within his sleeves were tightly clenched. He appeared to have felt some sort of uneasiness.

On the open ground, Nalan Yanran’s gaze swept over Xiao Yan’s body. The indifferentness on her pretty face finally had difficulty hiding her shock this time around. Although she did not underestimate Xiao Yan’s training talent, she had never thought that Xiao Yan could actually directly leap to a Da Dou Shi class from being someone who was not even a Dou Shi within three years! This kind of training speed was something that Nalan Yanran, who had the help of the Misty Cloud Sect and Pill-King Gu He, could not help but feel stunned about.

Nalan Yanran slowly inhaled a mouthful of somewhat icy cold air. The indifference on her face had gradually disappeared. Her seriousness increased. It appeared that the current her had truly begun to take Xiao Yan seriously.

Nalan Yanran tightly held her longsword. This time around, she did not say any unnecessary words. This young man in front of her whom she had once regarded as a useless being, was worthy of using all of her effort in order to ensure her victory in this fight.

The longsword shook and a clear ringing of the sword sounded. Following the sword ringing, the pale green-colored Dou Qi on Nalan Yanran's body abruptly soared. An instant later, the Dou Qi disappeared and a delicate pale green Dou Qi armor covered her exquisite pretty body.

The Dou Qi armor which Nalan Yanran had summoned was undoubtedly much slimmer and more elegant compared to Xiao Yan's one. Her body which curved at the right places was wrapped by that tight body armor. It emitted the beauty of a heroic spirit, causing her, who was originally the focal point of the place, to attract the attention of everyone's eyes.

Although the color of both of their Dou Qi armor was similar, Nalan Yanran's Dou Qi armor was clearly much more refined if one were to compare their outer appearances. On the other hand, Xiao Yan's one appeared a little crude. From this, one could see that despite the two of them being Da Dou Shi, there was still a gap between their strength.

The powerful Dou Qi surged forward within Nalan Yanran's Qi Paths like a flowing river. She gently lifted her pretty eyes and the tip of her feet abruptly pressed gently on the ground. Her body turned into a light ray, and she took the initiative to begin her attack on Xiao Yan as everyone watched.

The distance between the two of them was but ten meters. For Nalan Yanran's speed, this was something that could be covered in a few seconds. Her body flashed and reappeared, placing Xiao Yan within her attacking range. She waved her sword, making it appear much like a venomous snake which had come out of its hole as it carried a sharp rushing wind sword glow and trickily pierced at Xiao Yan's chest in a vicious manner.

Xiao Yan indifferently watched the tip of the sword which repeatedly

became enlarged within his pupils. His palm completely left the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler. Due to him leaving the Heavy Xuan Ruler, the currently rising Dou Qi in his body roared as they surged within his veins. A feeling of being filled with energy lingered within Xiao Yan's body.

When the pale green-colored substance, which was like a small rotating wind that covered the sword, was about to reach a spot half a foot from Xiao Yan's chest, he finally made a move. He violently kicked on the Heavy Xuan Ruler which was inserted in front of him. His body moved half a meter to the left and agilely dodged Nalan Yanran's aggressive attack.

"Thousand Wind Blade!"

Nalan Yanran was not surprised that Xiao Yan was able to dodge her attack. Her hand swiftly turned and five spiraling sword blades which were agglomerated from wind type Dou Qi instantly formed on the tip of her finger. With a soft cry, five sharp sword blades left her finger. They twined around each other, turning into tiny green lines as they charged at Xiao Yan in a lightning like manner, while carrying a sharp piercing wind sound.

Five sharp rotating sword blades broke through the obstruction of the air and almost instantly appeared in front of Xiao Yan. The green-colored ray of light abruptly trembled and the five rotating sword blades immediately spread out from the middle. After which, they targeted five vital points on Xiao Yan's body and shot out explosively. The ferocious wind that they carried as they flew passed caused Xiao Yan to narrow his eyes.

"What a fast speed." The speed at which the rotating sword blades attacked was fast enough to cause Xiao Yan to feel shocked. From such a close distance, it was clearly impossible to completely dodge all of them. Therefore, in the little time that remained, three green-colored flames were swiftly flicked out from the tip of Xiao Yan's finger. These tiny flames were shot out in different directions and perfectly blocked three rotating sword blades. They also managed to incinerate them as desired.

Although Xiao Yan had blocked three of the rotating sword blades, there

were still two more of them which ruthlessly shot toward the left and right arm of Xiao Yan. The sword blades struck the Dou Qi Armor and a wave of sparks and a ear-piercing chafing sound was emitted when the two came into contact. Due to the exhaustion of energy, the sword blades slowly disappeared. At the same time, two significantly big holes appeared on Xiao Yan's Dou Qi Armour. Although these holes were gradually being repaired by Dou Qi, one could still vaguely see some traces of blood from them. It appeared that this attack caused Xiao Yan to receive some external injuries.

Of course, from Xiao Yan's point of view, such external wounds would naturally not affect his combat ability. Therefore, his left foot abruptly stomped heavily on the ground after withstanding this round of sharp attack unleashed by his opponent. As an explosive sound was created, his body turned into a black-colored shadow. He appeared to be nestled on the ground as he closed the gap between him and Nalan Yanran in a flash. His palms supported himself on the ground while his feet carried a ferocious force which violently whirled and smashed toward Nalan Yanran's neck. From the whirling sound emitted from the air, it appeared that the force which Xiao Yan used was merciless.

Sensing Xiao Yan, who had actually appeared this close to her with such swiftness, Nalan Yanran knit her eyebrows together. She immediately twisted her waist and her body became like a catkin within a violent storm. Although she had only pulled back a short distance of half a foot, she had coincidentally escaped Xiao Yan's attacking range. Without any hesitation, Nalan Yanran waved her longsword after she had dodged the other party's attack. She turned into a green shadow as she cut at Xiao Yan's legs in a lightning like manner.

Sensing the thick cold sword aura approaching, Xiao Yan's right hand abruptly opened while facing his front. A ferocious shapeless force violently surged and heavily struck Nalan Yanran's chest.

The sudden attacking force caused Nalan Yanran, who could not react in time, to take a couple of steps back. As she had the protection of the Dou Qi Armor, however, Xiao Yan's attack this time around did not have much

impact other than breaking the opponent's attack.

Xiao Yan's heart also understood this point very clearly. Originally, he did not expect that this attack would cause much harm toward Nalan Yanran. Therefore, when she was retreating, his palm violently struck the ground. The ferocious force caused a few crack lines to spread on the hard, green rock surface. His body leapt up and moved closer to Nalan Yanran like a ghost. Immediately, he unleashed his fiercest attack since he had arrived, much like a volcano erupting.

Xiao Yan specialized in close combat. Therefore, his hands, arms, elbows, legs, head, and every part of his body had at this very moment, were turned into terrifying weapons, that could kill. His arms and elbows danced and a frightening energy caused explosions to repeatedly appear in the surrounding empty air. Each time the force missed, it would leave quite a deep pit scar on the green rock surface.

When faced with this incomparably aggressive attacks of Xiao Yan, Nalan Yanran did not show any sign of weakness. Although the opponent was just beside her, she managed to rely on the uniqueness of her agility Dou Technique to repeatedly dodge Xiao Yan's attack. She waved her longsword, emitting a stern sword aura as the sword glinted, thus leaving behind countless of cut marks on the ground.

As the fight between the two gradually entered an intense phase, powerful Dou Qi appeared to be surging within the two bodies and was released at a gushing speed. When the Dou Qi collided, powerful energy explosions repeatedly sounded on the open ground.

Green glows flashed in the open ground. Hot Dou Qi and sharp sword blades repeatedly shot out from the cover of the green glow. Two shadows continuously moved swiftly within the square. Clear ringing of the sword and the sound of metal clashing was emitting unceasingly from the points where the two meet. The strength of their attacks had also become increasingly wild following the increase in the intensity of the fight. Progressively, it left everyone present speechless.

Eyeing the repeatedly flashing and moving blurry figures in the square,

the expressions of the surrounding Misty Cloud Sect disciples were all a little dull. In the battle earlier which had come to a stalemate, they could clearly sensed that Nalan Yanran had at the very least displayed three Xuan class Dou Techniques. However, these Dou Techniques which were sufficient enough to help her easily defeat some strong people who were stronger than her were completely defused by Xiao Yan, whose strength was clearly a little weaker than her own. Only at this moment did these disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect finally understand just what a silly rumor it was when their comrades described Xiao Yan of the Xiao clan as being a useless person and how he overestimated his own ability.

Being able to fight with the most outstanding person of the younger generation of the Misty Cloud Sect for so long without being defeated, proved that this delicate and handsome young man in front of them was far from an ordinary person!

Chapter 338: Wind's Peak: Dazzling Sunset

On the huge green rock square, powerful Dou Qi and sharp wind blades repeatedly shot out, leaving behind numerous clear and visible deep scars on the surrounding hard surfaces.

Everyone held their breath at this moment. Their gazes followed the two human figures which appeared and disappeared as they moved in flashes. The increasingly intense and heated battle caused many people to have their hearts jump to their throat while they watched the explosive battle of both parties. Their original impression of Xiao Yan was someone who should have been defeated upon first contact, but he had unexpectedly not shown any signs of being at a disadvantage in the fight. Instead, with those extremely ferocious close-ranged attacks of his, he actually faintly looked like he was suppressing Nalan Yanran in terms of attacks. This really stunned the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples who had originally thought that victory was easily within their grasp.

Of course, this was not only so for the ordinary Misty Cloud Sect's disciple. After Xiao Yan had quietly used the 'Heavenly Flame' to completely block all of the Xuan class Dou Techniques which Nalan Yanran had repeatedly displayed, the Misty Cloud Sect's elders on the stone platform finally became to display uneasy expressions. The few Dou Techniques which Nalan Yanran had displayed basically belonged to the advanced and difficult to learn type. Moreover, their power was also quite great.

With Nalan Yanran's strength, even if her opponent was a strong person two or three stars above her, it would not be possible for him to easily block these few Dou Technique which she displayed. However, the reality that had appeared in front of them clearly told Yun Leng and the others that those Dou Techniques which had great power were actually blocked by Xiao Yan, whose strength was slightly weaker than Nalan Yanran, without suffering any injuries.

“First Elder. That Xiao Yan appears to be a little strange. Each time Nalan Yanran’s Dou Technique is about to reach his body, a strong and strange energy appears. It is this strange energy that causes Nalan Yanran’s Dou Techniques to be unable to obtain any actual results.” After staring at the open ground intently with his eyes, a white-robed old man could not resist turning his head and softly informing Yun Leng with a serious face.

Hearing the soft voice of the white robed old man, the other few elders, including Yun Leng nodded slightly. With their strength, they could naturally sense the strange energy which contained some heat. However, Xiao Yan displayed his ‘Heavenly Flame’ while moving at high speed and his technique was done skillfully and with great familiarity. Therefore, even though Yun Leng and the others could only sense something, but were unable to know just what exactly Xiao Yan used.

“Don’t panic. Allow me to carefully sense it.” Yun Leng’s face was gloomy as he waved his hands. He slowly shut his eyes and immediately used the Dou Qi in his body to connect with the energy in the outside world which possessed the same affinity. He then began to watch Xiao Yan’s every action from all directions.

Hearing these words from Yun Leng, the other few elders exchanged glances and maintained silence. They continued to throw their gazes into the increasingly intense battle.

Not long after these elders became quiet, two rushing wind sounds suddenly sounded in the air. Immediately, two human figures appeared on the top of a huge tree located on the surroundings of the open ground. Their gazes swept on the inextricably locked battle below and could not help but feel a little surprised.

After the two human figures appeared, Jia Xing Tian and the rest who were to the tip of large trees threw their gazes over. When their gazes swept onto the faintly handsome looking middle aged man who was wearing a pale-green robe, they were momentarily startled. Immediately, they laughed and greeted him. An endless stream of people instantly flocked over. From this it could be seen just what kind of status and

position this person held in the Jia Ma Empire. Even people of Jia Xing Tian's and Fa Ma's level were this polite to him.

The person who came was Pill-King Gu He of the Jia Ma Empire with Liu Ling followed close behind him. The Liu Ling at this moment was no longer as arrogant as he was in the capital back then. He quietly stood behind Gu He and smiled as he greeted Nalan Jie and those people of the older generation. Looking at this manner of his, it appeared that he had changed quite a bit because of his failure at the Alchemist Grand Meeting.

"Ke ke, it is really unexpected that both Old Jia and Old Fa are here. But the sect leader isn't present today, so there is no one to greet you. I'm sorry." Gu He cupped his hands toward the two of them and said courteously with a smile. He similarly did not dare slight these two extremely strong people who possessed quite a great reputation in the Jia Ma Empire.

"This is?" Gu He's sweeping gaze suddenly paused on Hai Bodong's body. Hesitation flashed across Gu He's face. With his outstanding Spiritual Perception ability, he could naturally sense the partially hidden surging force of the latter.

"Hai Bodong."

Hai Bodong cupped his hands towards Gu He. The usual indifferent face he used on strangers had unprecedentedly revealed a somewhat stiff smile. Although he was much greater in seniority compared to Gu He, only those people in this world who had a big fist and great ability would truly receive equal or respectful treatment from others. He might be a Dou Huang, but Gu He, as the most outstanding alchemist Grandmaster in the Jia Ma Empire, was someone who even a Dou Huang had to treat equally when they met. This was because everyone knew just what kind of enormous gathering power a tier six alchemist possessed!

"Ice Emperor Hai Bodong?" Hearing Hai Bodong mentioning his own name, Gu He was startled and his expression was immediately a little lost. A long while later, his expression recovered to normal and with a smile, he politely spoke to Hai Bodong, "Back then when Gu He was still training, I

heard so much about Old Hai's name. Seeing you today, your prestige isn't any less than what it was back then."

Hai Bodong smiled. Since the other party treated him in this manner, he naturally could not be any less polite. After the two of them courteously exchanged some words, Gu He finally turned his gaze towards the battleground. Upon seeing the extremely close and intense fight, his eyebrows immediately twitched. He asked in astonishment, "That fellow is Xiao Yan of the Xiao clan?"

"Ke ke, that's right, but he isn't a useless person." A bitter laughter sounded beside Gu He. When the latter glanced over, he realized that it was Nalan Jie who had replied.

Gu He nodded his head. His gaze returned to Xiao Yan who had turned into a black shadow on the battleground. It was naturally a lie if he said he was not surprised. He clearly understood that the latter was a useless person who had not even reached the Dou Zhe class three years ago. Three years later, however, he had actually soared to a level which was sufficient to contend with Nalan Yanran?

It should be known that Yun Yun had gotten him to refine an unknown number of medicinal pills to raise Nalan Yanran's strength. Despite the Misty Cloud Sect and his own support, however, this Xiao Yan actually managed to follow closely behind with just three years. Just what kind of support from an enormous faction and terrifying training talent did he need to do this?

A seriousness was added to the originally indifferent and smiling face. He frowned slightly and his spiritual strength broke out of his body from his forehead. In a lightning like manner, it immediately moved and hovered over the open ground. Xiao Yan movement speed, which was originally as fast as lightning appeared like a movie which was played in slow motion as it slowly played out within Gu He's mind. In this slow motion, every single action of Xiao Yan was completely exposed in Gu He's perception.

Under the watch of various strong people who did their best to observe

the fight, the two people on the open ground, which appeared like blurry intertwining figures in the eyes of the ordinary Misty Cloud Sect's disciples had become extremely clear.

The flashing and moving intertwining figures on the battleground once again came into contact and pulled back. Following the sound of an explosion, the two figures were each forced back by more than ten meters with their bodies skidding against the surface of the ground.

The figures which were forced back came to a slow stop. Finally, Xiao Yan and Nalan Yanran's figures clearly appeared in front of everyone's gaze. Upon seeing the manner of the two of them, everyone were stunned.

Numerous criss crossed sword scars had already appeared on the Dou Qi Armor on Xiao Yan's body. Under those deep sword scars, one could faintly see bright red fresh blood. Clearly, he did receive some of Nalan Yanran's counterattacks in that almost wild close range fight earlier.

Xiao Yan's outer appearance was quite ugly, but Nalan Yanran was also similarly in a bad state. Her originally clean moon dress had appeared somewhat disorderly at this moment. One could see a clear footprint at a spot around her lower abdomen. Her messy black hair was stuck onto her clean forehead where some perspiration had appeared. The back of her teeth bit her bottom red lip while her breathing became a little hurried.

From the manner of these two people, it appeared that each of them had won and lost in the intense battle earlier.

After the two of them revealed themselves, the private whispers which were originally present on the open ground once again became completely quiet. Everyone was infected by the 'giving a tit for a tat' manner of the two of them and did not dare to say anything to break it.

A breeze blew over the open ground. A few withering leaves followed the wind, rotated around and swept passed, between the two of them.

The silence persisted for a long while. Finally, Nalan Yanran took the lead and did something. Her clever eyes carried some complicated emotion as she deeply watched the indifferent face of the young man opposite her. Her hand was slowly extended to remove the green ribbon

which was restricting her long black hair. She slowly swung her head. The black hair on her head was like the moonlight as it poured down. It moved along her arm and vertically down toward her delicate waist.

Under the hot sun, the girl undid her retrained hair and the black hair rolled down. It emitted an ethereal agile presence. The moving scene caused the hearts of those who were already infatuated by her to beat even faster.

“She wants to use that thing?” Seeing Nalan Yanran’s sudden action, Yun Leng and the others on the stone platform were startled. Immediately, they began mumbling to themselves.

“Looks like the fight should be ending soon. But to be able to force Nalan Yanran to this extent, this little fellow from the Xiao clan is really very strong.” A white robed elder sighed softly.

“Is she about to take out her trump card? This girl is actually forced to this extent.” A surprise surfaced on Gu He’s face as he softly said while standing in the tree.

When Jia Xing Tian and the others around him heard these words of Gu He, they were stunned. Immediately, they threw their surprised gazes back on the battleground.

As her black hair fell down, Nalan Yanran eyes slowly shut. A moment later, she suddenly opened her eyes. The black hair on her head abruptly moved automatically despite the absence of any wind. Her long hair floated and danced. Following this, her body actually began to suspend in the air without borrowing any help from a launching force or a pair of wings.

As Nalan Yanran’s body slowly rose into the air. The energy around her body appeared like boiling water at this moment as they began rising violently. Circular pale-green-colored substantive ripples spread repeatedly from her body.

The longsword slowly moved upward and was finally tilted in such a way that it pointed toward Xiao Yan below. At one instance, the longsword trembled gently and the sunlight from the sky suddenly began to move toward the longsword and agglomerated together. In just an instant, the

glow on the longsword surged. The eye-piercing glow was like a second sun in the sky.

“Xiao Yan, let’s decide the victor.”

Nalan Yanran’s white pretty face appeared somewhat transparent as it reflected the glow. She shakingly pointed toward Xiao Yan below and for the very first time, she shouted that name which she had once greatly loathed.

Xiao Yan lifted his head and eyed the eye-piercing glow. Under that glow, a terrifying energy was wildly being agglomerated.

“Is she finally using her trump card? Since that is the case...”

As her pretty eyes stared at the young man whose body was straight and tall, Nalan Yanran inhaled a deep breath of air. Her hand tightly held the longsword which had become extremely heavy while she began moving the sword at a pace so slow that it was almost impossible for one to sense that it was moving. Following the movement of the longsword, the energy ripple which it emitted also become increasingly intense.

Xiao Yan watched the sky indifferently. His right hand was gently extended and with a puff, a green-colored flame sudden appeared under the watch of everyone present.

“This is...” Although some of the ordinary Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples were unaffected after the appearance of the green-colored flame, the elders as well as Gu He and the other strong people on the tree suddenly widened their eyes. This was especially so for Fa Ma’s group. The feeling of familiarity in their hearts grew increasingly intense.

The moving longsword in the sky abruptly came to a stop. Nalan Yanran bit her lips with the back of her teeth. Both of her hands held the repeatedly dancing longsword with all her might. The terrifying energy contained in it was something that caused her to have difficulty controlling.

At a certain instance, the energy on the longsword was brewed to its peak condition. Finally, Nalan Yanran ceased suppressing it. Her pretty

face was grave looking and following a clear cry, the eye-piercing sunlight already reflecting off the longsword began to inflate abruptly. In an instant, the intense light on the sword actually concealed the light from the sun in the sky!

“Wind’s Peak: Dazzling Sunset!”

A tender cry fell from the sky and the terrifying energy fluctuation was finally unleashed. A sharp sword aura shot explosively toward Xiao Yan from all directions in the sky much like a storm falling. The tough and hard ground actually cracked apart under the pressure of this sharp sword aura, forming crack lines which spread to the edge of the open ground.

Sensing the terrifying sword arua in the sky, the Misty Cloud Sect disciples hurriedly placed their hands against each other’s. Waves of Dou Qi rose from within their bodies and finally formed an enormous energy cover which enveloped over half the square. Only by relying on it did they manage to shake off the pressure created from the sword aura in the sky.

“It actually is ‘Wind’s Peak’. It is really unexpected that Yun Yun has even taught her this. However, with her ability, she cannot even display twenty or thirty percent of its strength.” Jia Xing Tian muttered as he raised his head and watched the sword aura which was like a sun that was falling down.

“It may be time that this little fellow...” Jia Xing Tian turned his gaze toward Xiao Yan on the battleground. He had yet to say everything he wanted to when his eyes suddenly shrank. He noticed that Xiao Yan had suddenly took out a pale-purple Yaowan (Danwan). He threw it into his mouth and chewed a little. Immediately, he widened his mouth and a cluster of purple flame was spat out and stopped in Xiao Yan’s left hand.

TL: Yaowan/Danwan are pills which are not proper medicinal pills. They either have no medicinal effect or very little of it.

“This posture...” Jia Xing Tian’s gaze stared intently at Xiao Yan who was spitting out the Purple Flame. His eyes were narrowed to the point where they were almost a straight line. That day, on the Imperial family square, that young man who was called Yan Xiao also did this.

Jia Xing Tian slowly turned his head and exchanged glances with Fa Ma. The expressions of the two of them were extremely strange and interesting. It appeared that they had finally confirmed something: “That Yan Xiao is Xiao Yan!”

Of course, Fa Ma, Jia Xing Tian were not the only ones who had discovered something because of this action. Nalan Jie, Mu Zhan, and the others in the huge tree were similarly stunned at this very moment.

Actually, the most important person was not the few of them. Instead, it was the one who was suspended in midair and had just displayed this terrifying Dou Technique. Nalan Yanran!

Chapter 339: Exposed

“This is?”

Nalan Yanran was startled as she watched Xiao Yan below from her position high in the sky. The familiar action of spitting Purple Flames which he had displayed earlier as well as the green-colored flame in his hand caused the young man called Yan Xiao, who had left an extremely deep impression in her mind, to slowly surface.

The somewhat skinny figure of the two of them gradually began to come into contact within her mind. Immediately, they merged perfectly.

Other than that face, the expression or presence of the current Xiao Yan did not differ with the young man who had beat the young alchemist from the Chu Yun Empire with his own strength at the Imperial family square back then.

“Yan Xiao, Xiao Yan. Yan Xiao, Xiao Yan.” A soft mutter was emitted from her mouth. At this moment, Nalan Yanran had appeared to come to a sudden realization. She abruptly understood some things. The mysterious young person who had used the Alchemist Grand Meeting to become the leader of the younger generation of the Jia Ma Empire, and the very person who had even caused Nalan Yanran to involuntarily feel an admiration for despite her haughty character; was actually this young man whom she had viewed as trash three years ago!

The back of Nalan Yanran’s teeth bit on her bottom red lip. The expression on that pretty face of hers repeatedly changed while her hands covered her mouth. That stiffened body of hers appeared to have been struck by lightning and was numb to the point where it was almost detached from her control. This sudden discovery had caused Nalan Yanran’s calm mind to instantly become a cluster of glue. Her originally indifferent face had become somewhat pale at this moment.

This was the first person of similar age and opposite gender who had caused an admiration and unusual emotion to form in Nalan Yanran’s heart in all these years. Yet he was actually the young man whom she had

viewed as useless and stepped on his pride back then.

This kind of gap which appeared to be of two different worlds caused Nalan Yanran to have a giddy feeling as though she were dreaming.

“He is Yan Xiao.”

The sudden discovery also caused Jia Xing Tian, Fa Ma, Nalan Jie, and the others on the tops of the trees to descend into a dull state. Perhaps, the first two had a faint feeling since the beginning of the fight, but they still felt somewhat absurd when the truth was revealed in front of their eyes.

“Yan Xiao, Xiao Yan. Ah, we are really muddled in our old age.” Fa Ma shook his head and sighed. He eyed the skinny figure of the young man on the battleground. With a bitter smile, he said, “It is really unexpected. Not only does this fellow have such an outstanding talent for refining pills, even his training talent is also this terrifying. Ah, indeed most heroes come from among the young.”

“He is indeed a young man who has extraordinary talent. This time around, the Nalan clan and the Misty Cloud Sect have really chosen the wrong party to suppress. They have really suffered a great loss.” Jia Xing Tian’s expression was a little strange. Having seen Xiao Yan’s performance at the Alchemist Grand Meeting, it was only natural that he clearly understood just what kind of enormous potential this young person possessed. As long as one gave him sufficient time, Jia Xing Tian believed that even with the Misty Cloud Sect’s strength, they might have to be afraid of him.

“This time around, this Nalan clan has really poured their regret all the way into their intestine (feel a great sense of regret).” The faces of Mu Chen, Primer Tengshan along with the others on the huge trees were similarly filled with shocked. A moment later, their gazes all swept toward Nalan Jie who had become completely stunned. Their faces could not help but reveal some pity.

“Hu.” Nalan Jie exhaled a long breath before he immediately, violently, inhaled another one. After repeating this for a couple of times, Nalan Jie finally relaxed that comical dull expression on his face. His hands were

forcefully acting calm as he patted his sleeves. However, the repeatedly shaking leaves near the peak of the tree just under his feet, exposed the panic and loss he felt within his heart.

“Xiao Yan is that Yan Xiao?” Nalan Jie’s gaze stared intently at the young man in the battleground. In his mind, the back of that figure wearing an alchemist robe gradually covered over Xiao Yan, finally merging perfectly together.

The corner of Nalan Jie’s mouth involuntarily quivered a little. The expression on his face currently had a brilliance which one could not describe with words. If the ability that Xiao Yan had displayed earlier had already caused Nalan Jie to feel bitterness, the other identity which had suddenly appeared truly caused Nalan Jie’s heart to abruptly tighten.

A young person who not only had outstanding training talent, but also possessed a terrifying talent when refining pills, that one could not stop praising, was someone that any huge faction would fight over. Whoever had him would basically have an extremely strong person in the future. His Nalan clan, however, had actually pushed this young man, with an extremely frightening talent, out the main door.

During the period of time that Xiao Yan adopted the identity of Yan Xiao, Nalan Jie could be considered to have become quite familiar with him during their contact with each other. It was also due to this that he could sense the impressiveness of this young person even more clearly. Among the younger generation whom he had met over the many years, the former was definitely the leader regardless of whether it was in terms of talent or mental strength. With Xiao Yan possessing these two things, Nalan Jie did not doubt that the level which this young person could reach in the future would surpass many of the strong people at the peak of the Jia Ma Empire.

This person who should have become a thick shield for the Nalan clan as well as a strong person with limitless potential, had already been thrown out from the Nalan clan’s camp in the most hurtful manner by Nalan Yanran. This resulted in the current situation where they held their weapons against each other. The two completely different situations had

caused waves of throbbing pain to spread from his heart.

“Ah.” Nalan Jie let out a long breath. At this moment, he could not say anything more. With the hard feelings Xiao Yan had for Nalan Yanran, did Nalan Jie really think that he could cause Xiao Yan and Nalan Yanran to reconcile just because of his words? For this Three Year Agreement, Xiao Yan had undergone tough training for three years. Even though Nalan Jie did not have exact news of Xiao Yan during these three years, anyone could imagine that it was impossible to swiftly rise to Xiao Yan’s current level, within three years, without undergoing a lonely hellish training which an ordinary person would have difficulty receiving regardless of how outstanding one’s talent was!

Nalan Jie let out an intense cough and his originally sleek red face had turned pale and dark without him noticing. Due to his complicated emotions, he currently appeared to have suddenly become much older. His sickly manner caused everyone around him to understand that the blow this time around was really too large for this person helming the Nalan clan. After all, who could maintain being calm when they saw a useless son-in-law who was originally abandoned by their clan suddenly change into someone who had an identity that was enough to stun everyone? This was especially so when this son-in-law would have originally become the thickest shield of the Nalan clan and help them block the blows from a wild storm. Unfortunately, this shield had already become a sharp spear which was pointed toward them. The tip of the spear even reflected a denseness that caused Nalan Jie to feel a chill within his bones.

“Yan Xiao. This Xiao Yan is actually Yan Xiao?” On the other side, Liu Ling’s face was also filled with shock and he let out an involuntary cry as he stared at Xiao Yan in the battleground.

“Yan Xiao? That young person who had become the champion of this season’s Alchemist Grand Meeting?” Hearing this, Gu He frowned slightly, turned his head and asked.

“Yes.” Liu Ling nodded his head and said with a bitter smile, “It is really unexpected that he is actually Xiao Yan. All of us have been deceived by him.” As he spoke these words, Liu Ling finally heaved a heavy sigh of

relief in his heart. Since Yan Xiao was Xiao Yan, it was likely that he would not have any feelings for Nalan Yanran. Since this was the case, the person whom he originally viewed as his strongest competitor had abruptly disappeared. This was undoubtedly a happy thing for Liu Ling.

“According to what I know, the Xiao Yan three years ago did not know how to refine medicine (alchemy skills). From then until now, only three years have passed. Yet he is actually able to refine a ‘Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill’, a tier four medicinal pill of such grade. If this is true, then isn’t his talent in refining medicine a little too terrifying.” Gu He said in a deep voice.

“Although it is a little embarrassing to say this, he is the only person among the younger generation whom I admire. His talent in refining pills is really very frightening.” Liu Ling seriously said.

“You will also admit defeat? Looks like your failure in the Grand Meeting this time around was somewhat beneficial to you. At the very least, you are no longer as arrogant as you were in the past.” Gu He said as glanced at Liu Ling, feeling a little surprised. With his knowledge of this disciple of his, he naturally clearly knew of the haughtiness in the latter’s bones. It was really unexpected that Liu Ling would feel respect for this Xiao Yan who was clearly a little younger than him.

Hearing this, Liu Ling laughed awkwardly. He did not dare continue the conversation with knowledge that his past arrogance had given Gu He a headache along with a feeling of helplessness.

“The green-colored flame in his hand should be a kind of ‘Heavenly Flame’ while the purple-colored flame seems to be a type of ‘Beast Flame’, which he likely obtained from some sort of high tier Magical Beast’s body.” Ge He was undoubtedly an alchemist grandmaster. With one glance, he managed to identify the background of the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ and the Purple Flame.

“To be able to control two kinds of flames with such familiarity... the Spiritual Strength of this Xiao Yan isn’t weak. It’s no wonder that even you have lost to him. Being able to control two flames at the same time is

something that even some tier four alchemists have difficulty doing.” The ignorant just simply watched the excitement while the experts observed the essence and skills. With just a mere rough glance, Gu He was able to see some of the unique points of Xiao Yan.

Liu Ling hurriedly nodded his head by Gu He’s side.

“But why does this green-colored flame give me a sort of familiar feeling?” Gu He suddenly knit his eyebrows together and said in an uncertain soft voice.

“Green-colored ‘Heavenly Flame’.” Gu He slowly muttered from his mouth. His expression suddenly flickered between being bright and dark as it changed. Suddenly, he recalled how he had spent a great amount of effort in the Tager Desert back then and even broke into the deep regions of the desert, coming into conflict with Queen Medusa. At the very end, all of it seemed to be for a kind of green-colored ‘Heavenly Flame’, no?

After returning from the desert, Gu He had also clearly thought out some things. In their journey to the Tager Desert this time around, they seemed to have been plotted against by someone else. The group’s effort had finally ended up benefiting that mysterious person.

His eyes slowly narrowed. Ge He stared intently at Xiao Yan’s face. For some unknown reason, he kept feeling that this face appeared to belong to someone whom he had met. He continued frowning. At one instance, his eyes suddenly strunk. He had finally remembered!

The person whom they had unintentionally rescued from the hands of the female Snake-person chief at the desert back then was Xiao Yan!

This thought began to stir in a lightning like manner within Gu He’s mind. All the doubts he had back then appeared to have fallen into place at this moment and everything made sense now. No wonder his group’s trail was so clearly grasped. No wonder there was someone who took the lead, secretly sneaking into the city while they were held off by Queen Medusa and obtained the ‘Heavenly Flame’.

One by one, all the mysteries began to intertwine with each other. Finally, the delicate and handsome face of the young man suddenly

appeared.

“Hu.”

Gu He let out a deep breath. He had come to a sudden realization. Back then, the person who had become the beneficiary during the time they were entangled with Queen Medusa definitely had some relation to Xiao Yan which the latter could not shrink from, even if it were not Xiao Yan himself.

“What a ‘good’ fellow. He actually played us all.” Gu He inserted his hands into his sleeves. With narrow eyes, he watched Xiao Yan in the battleground. His heart suddenly had a feeling of not knowing whether to laugh or cry. The line-up of that group of his back then could basically dominate the entire Jia Ma Empire. However, they ended up falling for the plans of a young man who was not even twenty.

“Although I don’t know how exactly you did it, but now, you should first settle this difficulty in front of you. Nalan Yanran’s ‘Wind’s Peak’ is not something that can be easily ignored.”

Chapter 340: Small Scale Angry Buddha Lotus Flame!

A cool wind cut through the sky, causing the startled and absentminded Nalan Yanran to recover. After she did so, she waved her hand and as a conditional reflex, she appeared to be trying to grab the light sword which had been shot explosively downward. However, with her current strength, it was already a great strain to display the 'Wind's Peak'. It was impossible for her to direct it like her limbs. Therefore, she could only watch with her eyes as the longword, which carried an impressive force from all directions, as it violently smashed like a hot sun toward Xiao Yan standing in the open ground!

Her heart was currently a total mess. She understood that in her heart she held a favorable impression, and perhaps a little spirit of competition of never wanting to admit, toward the young man called Yan Xiao. A man who possessed strength that subdued others, without having a beautiful face.

It was due to having these complicated emotions that Nalan Yanran abandoned the indifference she usually had when speaking to others in her conversations with Yan Xiao. Her warm and soft tone was something she had used for the first time in many years on a male who was not her elder or relative.

Although the time she wasn't in contact with 'Yan Xiao' for very long, Xiao Yan had used this identity to unbridledly squander all of his outstanding ability that caused people to be repeatedly shocked. With the 'Heavenly Flame' in his hand, he cured the 'Searing Poison' which even Pill-King Gu He could do nothing about. When he participated in the Alchemist Grand Meeting, he stood out from various outstanding alchemists from various countries. Moreover, he had even been the savior at the very last moment to turn the tide of the competition, creating a miracle under a hopeless situation and helped the empire's alchemist association snatch back their honor which they were about to lose.

One by one, these feats, which caused people's blood to boil, had caused a countless number of different young ladies to feel an affection for him. Under the aura of these kinds of prominent results, even an outstanding lady like Nalan Yanran could not resist feeling a little dazzled. What girl has never imagined within her heart that the prince charming she loves not receiving cheers from tens of thousands of people?

Without a doubt, heroes love beauties, but similarly beauties also love heroes. The action of 'Yan Xiao' back then, where he did his best to protect the reputation of the Jia Ma Empire's Alchemist Association, may not have been his original intention, but in the eyes of the Jia Ma Empire's citizens, he was worthy of the word 'hero'. Regardless of how indifferent and haughty Nalan Yanran was, she was also a lady. Moreover, the moment that the young man had received tens of thousands of cheers was indeed also the moment where he became the most attractive to others.

From the messy emotions in her heart, Nalan Yanran even had the impulse to pull back the longsword earlier. However, after she failed this action, she suddenly became quiet. She bit her bottom red lip with the back of her teeth as she stared at Xiao Yan below. The emotions within her eyes was like tens of thousands of threads being entangled together, appearing complicated and difficult to separate.

Xiao Yan lifted his head and eyed the piercing glow which was becoming increasingly large in his eyes. He had also discovered the reactions of those people around him, but he was not too concerned. As something that would be exposed sooner or later, he did not think of hiding his other identity for very long.

Green-colored and purple-colored flames slowly rose on his hands. The pressuring force that hit him from the sky above pressed the clothes tightly against Xiao Yan's skin. The purple-colored flame flickered repeatedly. Only the cluster of green-colored flame swayed with the wind and did not show any sign of weakening.

Xiao Yan raised his hands to an equal height and immediately but slowly narrowed the distance between them. Seemingly having sensed the imminent collision, the two flames suddenly began to fluctuate intensely.

The flame seedlings crazily began to leap around as their hot temperatures began to swiftly rise.

“What is he thinking of doing?” As they eyed the strange action of Xiao Yan’s, Fa Ma, Gu He, and the others on the huge trees were all stunned and their faces were at a loss.

“This fellow is actually thinking of merging two different kinds of flames together?” Gu He was indeed worthy of being called a tier six alchemist. After some thought, he understood Xiao Yan’s intention. His face was instantly stunned. “Is he crazy? He is actually thinking of merging two different flames? Isn’t he afraid of the backlash from the flames?”

As a tier six alchemist, Gu He naturally had a clear understanding of the resistance and incompatibility of two different flames. The difficulty of trying to successfully merge two different flames together was almost unimaginable. Even Gu He himself did not dare guarantee that he had that kind of ability. Of course, he had also never attempted such a thing before. After all, not everyone in this world had Xiao Yan’s ruthless vigor, where one went all out without fearing death. For an alchemist, the backlash of a flame was the most terrifying thing.

Fa Ma exchanged glances with Jia Xing Tian. They may also have had some doubts present on their forehead, but with the prior miracle created at the Alchemist Grand Meeting, they understood not to carelessly look down on this little fellow who was still quite young. There did not appear to be any shortage of miracles when it came to this extraordinary young man.

“Is he about to use that thing?” As he eyed Xiao Yan’s action, Hai Bodong’s brow twitched. His hands began to feel a little uneasy. Although he knew that this type of merger did not pose any threat to him, Hai Bodong had some psychological trauma after that extremely large scale explosion from the merging the other time, which had nearly caused a few Dou Huang to meet their demise. Therefore, as long as he saw this fellow merging flames, he could not resist having an impulse to disappear somewhere far away.

However, it was fortunate that Hai Bodong did not lose himself as he did the last time. He forcefully suppressed his Qi in his heart, which had become a little hurried, while his eyes stared intently at the battleground.

The green and purple-colored flames grew increasingly close. A ferocious energy ripple repeatedly surged out from the two flames. Occasionally, the flame seedlings would spring forward emitting a loud explosion that was like a wave of thunder, causing everyone present to become a little shocked.

Xiao Yan's expression was calm as he eyed the changes of the two different flames. He was quiet for a moment before his hands instantly and abruptly clapped heavily together.

"Bang, bang!"

The two-colored flames were violently knocked against each other. Waves of muffled thundering sounds were repeatedly emitted from Xiao Yan's palm. However, Xiao Yan totally ignored them. He rubbed his hands slightly together and a Spiritual Strength was spread out of his body in a lightning like manner. Immediately, it wrapped around the two clusters of flame and following his past experience, he began to control it with great familiarity and ease.

As the rubbing between Xiao Yan's hands grew increasingly fast, a faint glow suddenly began to spread from his palms, just like that of muffled thunder. A moment later, the muffled thunder came to a sudden stop. Xiao Yan gently exhaled. His palms, which were tightly held together, gradually parted. A green-purple double-colored glow from his palm suddenly pervaded all over.

The brilliant glow gradually weakened. As everyone's eyes hurriedly swept over, their faces were immediately stunned as they watch the green purple flame lotus which was slowly rotating, suspended above Xiao Yan's palm.

"This is..." Gu He was shocked as he watched the two-colored flame on Xiao Yan's hand. His mouth parted as he instantly swept his Spiritual Strength, which was spread all over the open ground, over that flame

lotus. His eyes instantly and abruptly shrunk.

“What a huge violent energy. The ‘Heavenly Flame’ and another flame merged together, resulting in a huge explosive force to form due to their incompatibility. This fellow is actually able to perform this step.” As a tier six alchemist, Gu He clearly understood that merging two flames together could create an extremely huge amount of explosive energy. However, trying to merge two flames together and getting it to explode upon instruction required the person controlling it to maintain the two flames at an equilibrium. It was difficult to control such an equilibrium. Should any of the two flames break this equilibrium, these two flames would first explode before they could be shot out. If this happened, not only would Xiao Yan fail to hurt his opponent, but he would also end up causing himself to be seriously injured, losing more than he gained.

Gu He did not know if he could perfectly merge the two kinds of flames with his own ability. This was because he had never tried doing so. However, with his many years of experience, he could tell that the difficulty of this kind of merger should not be inferior to that of refining a tier four or even a tier five medicinal pill. Nevertheless, the young man below appeared to have easily and smoothly completed this extremely dangerous merging. How could this not cause Gu He to feel shock?

“There is no grievances in losing against him.” Gu He sighed, turned his head around and spoke to Liu Ling.

Liu Ling’s expression was serious as he nodded his head. Although his spiritual perception could not possibly be as meticulous as Gu He’s, he could still vaguely sense just what kind of enormous energy that the two-colored flame lotus, which was merely around the size of his palm, possessed.

“It is really difficult to say just who will win or lose this match.” Gu He mumbled as he shook his head.

“What is that thing that he has created?” Yun Leng, who was on the stone platform, frowned and asked uncertainly upon seeing the green purple flame lotus suspended above Xiao Yan’s hand.

“No idea.” The few elders beside him looked at each other and shook their heads in ignorance.

Yun Leng knit his brows tightly together. He slowly fondled his beard with his hand. For some unknown reason, an uneasiness had rose within his heart.

All the gazes present on the open ground were gathered on Xiao Yan’s palm. Although they were uncertain what kind of power that green-purple flame lotus had, the Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples appeared to have sensed something. A couple of the disciples who were nearer to the battleground of the two of them could not stand the heat and had increased the thickness of the defensive cover on the surface of their body.

“What a strong energy. This fellow is really more and more difficult to see through. His trump cards appear to come out one after another endlessly.” Fa Ma lifted his gaze from the flame lotus and exchanged glances with Jia Xing Tian. He then shook his head as he sighed with a little worry in his heart. Since they had come to know this fellow, the two of them had felt the sense of shock an unknown number of times.

Xiao Yan’s hands slowly moved up and down. That suspended green-colored flame lotus also followed his hand as it repeatedly moved in the same direction. Xiao Yan raised his head. The pressure brought about by that sharp and hot sword nearly caused Xiao Yan’s body to incline slightly.

Xiao Yan parted his feet slightly as that huge amount of energy pouring down discharged onto the ground. He inhaled a deep breath and was silent for a moment. His finger abruptly flicked out the lotus as he softly muttered, “Go, ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame!’”

As his voice fell, the green purple flame lotus abruptly left his hand, turned into a flowing light which flashed toward the hot sunlight sword.

Under the watch of countless of tensed gazes on the open ground, the two rays of light swiftly flashed in midair. Finally, they violently collided around ten meters from the ground much like two meteorites.

“Bang!”

The sound of a huge explosion reverberated throughout the entire Misty Cloud Mountain at this very moment!

Chapter 341: End!

The thundering sound suddenly exploded in the sky above the huge open grounds. Like the anger of a thunder god, it caused people's minds and spirits to involuntarily tremble in fear.

After the loud sound, the two incomparably ferocious energies burst out like an erupting volcano after they collided in midair, wildly emitting the terrifying energy that was contained in each of them. Immediately, a wild wind appeared in the sky above the open ground. It whistled past. When it arrived at the spot where the two energies had come into contact, even the air had become somewhat vague and distorted after being struck by the powerful energy in the sky.

The wild wind blew past and the assaulting energy ripple that spread out in the sky was like the flame of the heavens descending, engulfing the square and the area Nalan Yanran was in.

“Glug.”

“Glug.”

The energy ripple came into contact with some of the defensive covers that the Misty Cloud Sect disciples had set up. However, they clearly had underestimated the terrifying force that had been emitted when the two energies collided. Immediately, some of the fragile parts of the cover were instantly destroyed, smashed to pieces by the energy wave. Some of the weaker Misty Cloud Sect disciples' faces became pale and began wildly throwing up blood.

“Increase the thickness of the cover!” Yun Leng hurriedly cried out as he eyed those Misty Cloud Sect's disciples who had suffered a crushing blow under the energy strike.

“Yes!” Hearing Yun Leng's cry, the Misty Cloud Sect disciples present immediately cried out in unison. The united cry shot directly to the clouds and actually managed to temporarily suppress the loud thunder sound in the sky.

“Hah!”

As the orderly cry resounded, numerous different-colored Dou Qi glows immediately surged out of the bodies of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples. This Dou Qi lingered in the air above them and instantly came into contact with one another. They swiftly merged and in the blink of an eye, formed a multi-colored Dou Qi cover that enveloped half the open ground.

“Bang!”

Just as the defensive barrier was formed, another terrifying energy ripple burst forth from the sky. It violently smashed against the defensive cover. Immediately, the cover appeared to be like the surface of a lake after a huge rock had been thrown in with numerous ripples repeatedly spreading out from the epicenter. This time around, however, the defensive cover which the Misty Cloud Sect disciples had created in union did not face the same danger of being broken.

The moment the energy in the sky collided with each other, those on the tall trees surrounding the square, with the exception of Fa Ma, Jia Xing Tian, Hai Bodong, Gu He and others with strong abilities, waved their hands and summoned forth energy shields on the surface of their bodies as a precaution. At the same time, they retreated some distance away. Although Nalan Yanran’s and Xiao Yan’s strength were around that of a Da Dou Shi, the energy that erupted after the attacks of the two of them collided was something that even a Dou Ling would not dare to receive without any defense.

The tough square continuously shook under the strike of the powerful energy ripple. Numerous crack lines slowly appeared and finally began to spread all over.

Xiao Yan raised his head. His expression was grave as he eyed the attacking energy wave which came at him in a lightning like manner. As he sensed the terrifying force contained within it, Xiao Yan’s back trembled slightly. The Purple Cloud Wings, which were over a meter long, launched from his shoulders. His feet gently pressed on the ground and his body appeared like it was sliding as it swiftly pulled back. At the same

time, that attacking energy wave, which was visible to the naked eye, whizzed as it followed closely behind, much like a billowing wave. Wherever it passed, the hard open ground was damaged until it was in a terrible state.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the attacking energy wave which was like a screaming wave. As he pulled back swiftly, the corner of his eyes drifted a little to the left and then to the right. Immediately, the corner of his mouth bent slightly. His feet rotated and his body suddenly turned toward another spot. When he rotated, the attacking energy wave which was following close behind, carried rock fragments all over the place and continued rushing at him.

As he watched the attacking energy ripple which appeared to have a spirit, Xiao Yan was not overly surprised over. This was because the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' which he had shot out contained some Spiritual Strength which he had adhered to it. Therefore, when the two forces collided, some of the remaining energy would follow the path of the Spiritual Strength to search for the creator. Xiao Yan remained ignorant of Nalan Yanran's exact condition due to the cover of the intense light, but she should have also received an similiar extremely severe energy attack.

Xiao Yan's swiftly retreating body abruptly paused. His feet left a footprint which was half an inch deep on the green rock under his feet. The pair of wings on his back suddenly flapped and his body instantly left the ground and lifted into the air. The instant that his body did so, the shocked faces of the Misty Cloud Sect's elders behind were also revealed to him.

Due to its initial motion, the attacking energy wave did not have the time to turn around to chase Xiao Yan. Instead, it aggressively billowed toward Yun Leng and the others on the stone platform.

"What a cunning fellow!" After feeling stunned, Yun Leng swiftly recovered and softly scolded in an angry manner. His palms abruptly slammed heavily on the ground as he cried, "Heavy Rock Wall!"

As his cry fell, the ground in a spot a few meters in front of Yun Leng

began to churn violently. A loud bang immediately sounded and a huge rock wall broke through the ground and appeared. Like a colossus being, it protected Yun Leng and the others behind it.

“Bang!” The attack energy wave which sped past ferociously crashed onto the rock wall. The instantaneous violent collision caused the surrounding Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples to involuntarily cover their ears.

Rock fragments repeatedly fell from the rock wall and tiny crack lines also began to swiftly spread. However, Yun Leng did not show the slightest sign of panic. After he summoned the rock wall, he raised his head and focused intently on Xiao Yan who was flying in the air. With a shocked voice, he said, “Dou Qi Wings? No, don’t tell me it’s a flying Dou Technique? Humph, what a lucky fellow. He even possesses such a rare thing.”

“That cunning fellow. He actually forced us to take action to defuse that attack energy wave which was chasing after him.” An Elder patted off the dust on his head as he helplessly said angrily.

“Nalan Yanran’s situation does not appear to be too good. Moreover, that Yan Xiao actually possesses a flying Dou Technique. Although Nalan Yanran can temporarily stay in the air because of her agility Dou Technique, she would definitely be no match for him. Should they fight in the air, she would not be as agile as him and will be at a disadvantage.” Another Elder raised his head, eyed the sky and frowned as he spoke. The piercing sunlight appeared to pose no obstruction to him.

“First Elder. The situation now has somewhat exceeded our control. That Xiao Yan is really very strong!”

Yun Leng frowned tightly as his palm slowly fondled his beard. A long while later, he said in a deep and soft voice, “Let’s wait and see first. Try not to let Nalan Yanran lose. Otherwise, where will the Misty Cloud Sect put its face in front of so many strong people?”

“What do you mean, First Elder?” Hearing this, the white robed old men around were stunned and their brows were knit together.

“Let’s wait and see first.” Yun Leng shook his head but did not say much.

He raised his head and looked at the sky. Suddenly, his expression changed slightly, “Yanran is injured!”

“Glug.”

In the sky which was isolated by a strong light, Nalan Yanran's body was like a catkin in a wild wind. Her body borrowed the slight breeze as it repeatedly shook in a light and agile manner, using this to dodge the waves of attacking energy which billowed over. However, the range and number of attacking waves of energy was really far too great. After dodging ten plus attacks in a row, Nalan Yanran's strength was finally exhausted. As her body slowed, an attacking energy wave heavily slammed into her body. Immediately, her pretty face paled and she could not resist spitting out a mouthful of fresh blood.

Nalan Yanran's palm held her chest, forcefully resisting the pain that was transmitted from within her body. She had just stopped moving in the air when her eyes abruptly shrunk. When she turned her head around, she noticed that a black-robed young man with his arms folded around his chest had appeared a short distance behind her. The purple-colored wings on his back were flapping as his dark pupils coldly watched her.

The two pairs of eyes exchanged a glance in midair. Nalan Yanran bit her red lips tightly. Her hand suddenly made a virtual push toward Xiao Yan. Immediately, a large number of pale green-colored wind blades appeared in front of her from nowhere and swept toward Xiao Yan.

Borrowing the reverse force, Nalan Yanran's body swiftly fell toward the ground. She clearly understood that if she were to fight in the air, Xiao Yan, who possessed a pair of wings, would gain an advantage. This was especially so under the current situation where she was badly injured.

Just as Nalan Yanran had begun to move, Xiao Yan took the lead. The wings on his back flapped and his body abruptly plunged downward. His body immediately trembled slightly as he narrowly dodged the wave of wind blades. His flying speed then abruptly soared as his body flashed and appeared above Nalan Yanran like a ghost. He lowered his head and eyed Nalan Yanran, whose pretty face had changed slightly.

“It is over, Nalan Yanran.”

As a gentle breeze blew past his ear, Xiao Yan stared at the exquisite face. His voice had suddenly become a little hoarse. Three years of tough training where he had experienced loneliness and withstood blood and sweat during that time. All of it was merely to enable him to one day truly defeat the shame which was recklessly left behind by a young lady in the hall of the Xiao clan.

Seeing the delicate and handsome face at such a close distance, Nalan Yanran was even able to spot the vague outline of that stubborn young man back then. Her eyes were a little blurred. The figure of the ordinary young man who wore the long alchemist robe at the Alchemist Grand Meeting once again surfaced in Nalan Yanran's mind. A self mocking look could not help but appear on her face.

“Is this your revenge? Creating an illusionary person who was so outstanding that even I am mesmerized, only to break it apart, letting me know that the useless person whom I looked down on back then was someone who could truly cause me, Nalan Yanran, to view in a new light. Xiao Yan, the me back then indeed looked down on you because of your strength. Reality has already proven that I am really short-sighted.”

Nalan Yanran lifted her pretty face. She stared directly at Xiao Yan, who was swinging his hand which was about to smash over. As she bit her bottom lip with the her back of her teeth, the stubbornness on her face was almost exactly the same as Xiao Yan's back then.

“But I have already said before. Even if I were to go back in time, I would still go to the Xiao clan to cancel the engagement. I don't need them to decide on my marriage. I am unable to keep a stranger company for the rest of my life!”

Xiao Yan watched the stubborn Nalan Yanran indifferently. Some fatigue flashed past his dark eyes. His body abruptly fell downward as his hands were gently imprinted on the latter's chest. His mouth was nestled beside her ear. A muttering was slowly emitted as though he was talking to himself.

“I have never said that you are wrong to cancel the engagement. It is just the method that you chose to do so was wrong. Unfortunately, the arrogant you, never thought about this point.”

“But since things have reached this stage, there is no longer a meaning in arguing about who is right or wrong. In the future, we will not cross paths. You can continue to be your junior sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect while I continue to be a practitioner undergoing tough training.”

“The Three Year Agreement is over, Nalan Yanran.”

As the mumbling slowly fell, a hidden force within the hand that was pressed gently on Nalan Yanran’s chest immediately erupted.

This words of Xiao Yan caused Nalan Yanran’s face to turn white.

“Xiao Yan, please give the Misty Cloud Sect face and concede to Nalan Yanran. After this, the Misty Cloud Sect will give you a thanks that is satisfactory.”

The moment when Xiao Yan was about to strike, a cry that was concealed to everyone was suddenly transmitted to his ears.

The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth was raised in ridicule. He had identified the owner of this voice. Was it not a little laughable and childish for Yun Leng, the First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect, to quietly transmit his voice to try to persuade him at the last moment like this?

Xiao Yan gently laughed. He lowered his head and eyed the square. Without any hesitation, his hand abruptly shook and the surging force within his palm exploded forth like a volcano!

Chapter 342: Renewed Storm

“Glug!”

A turbulent force moved along Xiao Yan’s hand and burst forth. A muffled groan which contained pain was emitted from Nalan Yanran’s throat. Immediately, a mouthful of fresh blood moved along the corner of her mouth and rolled down. The bright color silhouetted against her red sleek mouth appeared enchanting.

Nalan Yanran’s eyes faintly contained some complicated emotions as she stared at the young man’s face which had remained cold. She slowly closed her eyes as her arms hung downward. Her body was like that of a terribly defeated scene as it followed the wind and weakly fell down toward the ground.

In the next moment, the entire place was silent!

All of the gazes were paused on the silhouette which was falling from midair. The faces of those Misty Cloud Sect’s disciple were filled with disbelief.

Nalan Yanran was the most outstanding person among the younger generation of the Misty Cloud Sect. At the age of thirteen, she agglomerated and formed a vortex, successfully advancing to a Dou Zhe. At sixteen, she climbed to a Dou Shi. At twenty, she had become a Da Dou Shi!

A twenty year old Da Dou Shi. Although one would not dare to say that this kind of training speed was the most outstanding one in the many years that the Misty Cloud Sect has existed, it was more than sufficient for her to be ranked among the top ten. However, this person, who was so outstanding that many ordinary people respected her from deep within their hearts, had actually lost to the one who was known as the trash of the Xiao clan. This had undoubtedly caused those Misty Cloud Sect’s disciple who had been viewing Nalan Yanran as a female god in their hearts to feel a deep sense of defeat.

However, as they recalled the progress of Nalan Yanran’s training, some

people involuntarily associated the issue with Xiao Yan. When these somewhat smart people chased away the hard feelings in their hearts and seriously calculated Xiao Yan's age and training speed, aghast suddenly rose in their hearts.

Three years ago, Xiao Yan was not even a Dou Zhe. However, three years later, his strength had already caught up to Nalan Yanran, having been raised to the Da Dou Shi class.

In three years time, Xiao Yan had leaped past the Dou Zhe and Dou Shi class, directly rising and stepping into the Da Dou Shi level. If one said that Nalan Yanran's training speed was something that others would feel a respect for, then Xiao Yan's one would probably cause people to be terrified.

Abandoning Xiao Yan's face whose tenderness had appeared to be honed away, the hearts of some of those who knew the situation in detail could not resist trembling. Only at this moment did they recall that Xiao Yan was merely fourteen years old three years ago. Three years later, he would be seventeen.

The maturity and calmness which Xiao Yan had been displaying had concealed his true age from many people.

There were many people who had merely just reached the Dou Zhe class at this age. However, this person who was once the trash of the Xiao clan had already begun to formally step onto the journey to becoming a strong person!

A seventeen years old Da Dou Shi!

Back then, the founders of the Misty Cloud Sect, those few prodigy who had once shocked the continent had also coincidentally reached the Da Dou Shi class at this age!

As they recalled all of this, some people quietly swallowed their saliva. They exchanged glances with one another and their faces were instantly covered with horror and cold sweat.

Of course, Xiao Yan's training speed was related to the help Yao Lao had

given him. However, if Yao Lao had not quietly absorbed Xiao Yan's Dou Qi back then and Xiao Yan wouldn't have had to waste that golden period of time, who knew if Xiao Yan would be able to reach the Da Dou Shi class at an earlier time? However, if Xiao Yan did not have the honing of his character during the three years when he was a useless person, who could guarantee that Xiao Yan would be able to have the mental strength which even caused many people of the older generations to admire.

One's loss may be a blessing in disguise.

"Ah."

The expression of Nalan Jie on the huge tree had become much darker at this moment. His straight body was bent slightly as he let out a long breath. As he sighed, his bitterness was so rich that it was difficult to defuse. Something that was originally very good had ended up in the current situation where he had not only lost an outstanding grandson-in-law, which would cause everyone to be jealous of, but also his face. He had really made a double loss.

Hearing Nalan Jie sigh, Mu Chen and the others beside him could only wisely glance at each other and shake their heads with a bitter smile. Xiao Yan's performance had already far exceeded their expectations. This little fellow who appeared to have been training by himself was actually able to defeat Nalan Yanran who was specially groomed by the Misty Cloud Sect. The speed of his growth during these three years was something that stunned even Mu Cheng and the others.

"What an extraordinary little fellow." Fa Ma sighed. Although Xiao Yan had gained a little advantage with his flying Dou Technique during the fight earlier, a sharp eyed person could tell with a glance that he had experienced real blood and sweat while training for such a sharp combat awareness to form. This was far from what Nalan Yanran, who was pampered and trained with a careful training method, could compare with.

"He is indeed not a simple person. Given time, this fellow will definitely become someone great!" Jia Xing Tian nodded his head. This faint

evaluation of his was something that he had given to such a young person for the first time in many years.

Hai Bodong stared at into the sky and his heart sighed in relief. Quickly following this, however, it became tense once again. This was because he knew that the most dangerous part of their journey to the Misty Cloud Sect was not the fight with Nalan Yanran, but those Elders of the Misty Cloud Sect.

Moving his gaze downward, Hai Bodong swept his gaze across the Elders of the Misty Cloud Sect who were seated on the stone platform. When his gaze swept passed the slightly green faced Yun Leng, his brows were slightly knit together. He flicked the hands under his sleeves gently and some cold air slowly shrouded his palm, preparing to handle an abrupt change at any moment.

“Damn little fellow!”

Carrying some anger with his hands, Yun Leng slammed it heavily on the rock table by his side. His face was green. He did not expect that Xiao Yan would not give them any face. The voice which he had used to remind the latter earlier actually did not have any impact.

“First Elder, what do we do next? Nalan Yanran has already lost.” A Misty Cloud Sect’s elder asked with a bitter laugh.

Yun Leng’s face changed repeatedly. Nalan Yanran represented the entire Misty Cloud Sect. Now that she had lost the fight, it would undoubtedly hurt the reputation of the Misty Cloud Sect. With their sect leader currently absent, he, as the First Elder, would naturally need to think of all the ways to save the reputation which they had lost.

“But if we don’t have a suitable excuse in front of the leaders of so many factions, how do we save our face? If we forcefully try to do something, won’t it appear that our Misty Cloud Sect is no different from bandits?” The thought repeatedly rotated within Yun Leng’s heart.

As his heart fretted over how to save the situation, Yun Leng’s gaze suddenly paused on the white faced Ge Ye’s body below. Currently, the latter’s appearance was as though he had seen a ghost. He stared at Xiao

Yan in midair. That shocked manner of his caused the already fretful Yun Leng to be even more furious. He could not resist calling out softly, “Ge Ye, be cautious of your image! You are the deacon within the Misty Cloud Sect!”

Hearing Yun Leng’s cry, Ge Ye’s body trembled once. Finally, he recovered. He turned his head over, pointed his quivering hand toward Xiao Yan in midair while his mouth shivered. His suppressed soft voice that could not hide his fear. “First Elder, he is the mysterious person who killed Mo Cheng!”

These words that Ge Ye released was like a huge explosion that shocked the heavens!

The expression of all the Misty Cloud Sect Elders on the stone platform changed drastically in an instant.

Xiao Yan indifferently watched the falling graceful figure. He called the bitterness and sadness on Nalan Yanran’s face earlier and some fatigue once again flashed across his eyes. For this so called Three Year Agreement, he had left his clan, left that cute girl whom he was worried about. Now that the Three Year Agreement was finally over, his body and even his spirit had at this moment, appeared to have put down a heavy burden which had pressed on him until he had difficulty breathing.

“Finally, it is over.” With a soft sigh, the pair of wings in front of him were flapped. His body followed the path in which Nalan Yanran fell as he slowly descended. Just as he was about to land on the ground, a white shadow suddenly drifted from Nalan Yanran’s chest. It followed the wind and drifted toward Xiao Yan.

After grabbing the white shadow with his hand, Xiao Yan’s eyes glanced at it and his body suddenly stiffened.

The white shadow was merely a white paper which was very neatly folded. Perhaps it was because it had been folded countless of times, but some small holes were appearing at the edge of the white paper. This white paper was something that Xiao Yan was extremely familiar with. Back then, in the hall of the Xiao clan’s home, a young man had peeled

out this white paper from the table and in a cool manner, wrote a divorce letter which had shocked everyone.

Xiao Yan slowly unfolded the white paper. The somewhat innocent writing vividly appeared on the paper. As his gaze swept downward, the handprint, which was tainted with blood shone eye-piercingly under the sun.

Xiao Yan stared at this divorce letter for quite a while before gently shaking his head. He glanced at Nalan Yanran who was on the verge of hitting the ground. With a wave of his sleeve, a force appeared out of nowhere and carried her on its back, while she slowly descended onto the green rock surface.

“Cough.”

Nalan Yanran supported her chest with her hand as she let out a few intense coughs. Fresh blood flowed out from the corner of her mouth. Her hand supported the ground and with some stubbornness, she raised her head. When she eyed Xiao Yan who was standing a short distance away and the white paper in his hand, the expression on her face changed repeatedly. A long while later, she appeared to have made a certain quiet decision.

Under the gaze of everyone, Nalan Yanran stood up with some difficulty. Her somewhat hoarse low voice carried a bitterness that was difficult to hide. “Xiao Yan, you have won. According to our agreement back then, if I were to lose in the fight, I, Nalan Yanran will become your slave.”

“However, for the reputation of the sect, please pardon me for being unable to do as what was agreed. In any case, my arrogant and unreasonable image has already been deeply affixed within your heart. In that case, let me be willful once more.”

“Looking back now, the method I used to handle the matter in the Xiao clan was indeed inappropriate. Therefore, please help convey my apologies to uncle Xiao in the future.”

As these words fell, Nalan Yanran’s hand was abruptly extended vertically. It swayed gently and the longsword, which was not far from the

side of a Misty Cloud Sect disciple, was immediately pulled over by a suction force.

Nalan Yanran's hand quickly grabbed the longsword. She clenched her silver teeth and waved her longsword. The sharp edge of the sword violently cleaved at her neck.

“Ah!”

The sudden action of Nalan Yanran directly caused the faces of all the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples, including those Elders to change drastically. They did not expect that Nalan Yanran would actually commit suicide just because she had lost the fight. However, the former did not have any intention of joking. The longsword danced and without any unnecessary words, she directly cut at her neck.

Although there were some elders present who had the intention to save her, the distance between them and Nalan Yanran meant that they could only watch the sharp blade become increasingly closer to Nalan Yanran's neck.

“Clang!”

The longsword carried a thick cold sword aura and cut across the air. Just as it was about to come into contact with the snow white skin, however, long fingers appeared from nowhere and immediately and violently clipped on the blade. Following a 'clang' sound, the longsword suddenly came to a stop. The sharp blade was on her fragile neck, leaving behind a shallow bloody scar. Fresh blood slowly flowed down, leaving behind eye-piercing blood lines.

When her longsword was stopped, Nalan Yanran abruptly lifted her head, only to find a pair of indifferent dark black eyes.

“I don't have much interest in taking you as a slave. Therefore, you need not do such things to keep the reputation of the Misty Cloud Sect intact.” Xiao Yan glanced at Nalan Yanran who had bit her red lips and could not resist feeling helplessness rise up in his heart. Although he had beat Nalan Yanran, it did not mean that he could truly let Nalan Yanran become his slave. Regardless of how one put it, Nalan Yanran was the

junior sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect. Those Misty Cloud Sect's Elders would definitely not allow him to do such a thing which would damage the reputation of the Misty Cloud Sect.

Moreover, if Nalan Yanran were to really commit suicide on this spot, it was likely that the Misty Cloud Sect would immediately become furious. The relationship between them would truly become that of enemies! This was not something that Xiao Yan would be happy to see.

"The Three Years Agreement is already over. In the future, we will no longer have any entanglement with one another. Your loss today can be considered as a small price for the wrong method that you have adopted back then." Xiao Yan said indifferently. The finger which was clipped on the longsword pulled abruptly and was carelessly flung. The longsword shot out and immediately pierced the ground violently in front of the Misty Cloud Sect's disciple from earlier. The hilt of the sword vibrated repeatedly.

"You should also know that this kind of paper agreement does not have much binding power."

Xiao Yan gently swung the divorce letter in his hand. He gently flicked his finger and a green-colored flame rose from his finger. In front of Nalan Yanran, it immediately burnt the paper into a pile of black ashes that floated in the wind.

"Today, I will repeat the words that I have said to you three years ago." Xiao Yan carried a smile on his face. His soft voice slowly reverberated over the quiet open ground.

"Nalan Yanran, in the future, you and our Xiao clan do not have any relationship. Congratulations, you are free."

As she eyed the smiling delicate and handsome young man, Nalan Yanran's face had a complicated expression. She had finally obtained the thing which she had chased after. For some unknown reason, however, her heart appeared to be very empty.

"Everyone, the exciting show is over. Please return to your homes."

Xiao Yan lifted his head and smiled at everyone in the tall trees. Immediately, he turned around and took a few steps. He pulled out the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler from the ground and carelessly sheathed it on his back. After which, he slowly walked out of the square in front of countless of gazes.

As the sunlight poured down, that back which looked a little lonely, had appeared much more relaxed than when it had first appeared.

Xiao Yan's footsteps stepped out of the open ground. Just as he was about to take a step down the stairs, the faint voice which caused Xiao Yan's heart to sink, finally sounded.

"Mister Xiao Yan, please stay behind. There are some matters which our Misty Cloud Sect would like to personally verify."

Chapter 343: A Trouble Which One Cannot Escape From

Hearing the voice which slowly rang out over the open ground, Xiao Yan's footstep which were about to descend the stairs paused abruptly. With his back facing the square, he lifted his head and inhaled a long breath. The fist within his sleeve was tightly clenched.

On the huge tree, Hai Bodong eyebrows shifted as he frowned intently. His gaze swept toward the middle of the square. At that moment, the expression of Yun Leng and the others appeared a little strange.

"Dammit, has he been recognized by someone?" Hai Bodong softly muttered. The powerful Dou Qi within his body quietly began to circulate.

As Yun Leng's voice fell, numerous gazes in the open ground were once again thrown toward the skinny back of the person who was about to descend the stairs. Nalan Yanran wiped the traces of blood off the corner of her mouth. She lifted her head and watched Xiao Yan's back with a pair of complicated eyes. Immediately, she turned around and spoke to Yun Leng and the others, "First Elder, in today's fight, Yanran was indeed weaker than him."

"Yanran, this has nothing to do with your fight. You should stand aside for now." Yun Leng waved his hand, his expression appeared unexpectedly solemn.

Seeing Yun Leng's expression, Nalan Yanran was momentarily shocked. She hesitated for a moment but in the end could only nod her head, drag her injured body and slowly withdraw to the side. The Misty Cloud Sect disciples that had been in that spot hurriedly stood up and gave their seats to her.

"What is it?" Fa Ma and the others on the large trees were somewhat at a loss when faced with this sudden change in the situation. They exchanged glances and their faces were all filled with doubt.

"Don't tell me that the Misty Cloud Sect is intent on forcing him to stay

behind after losing the fight?" Jia Xing Tian said.

"They should not dare to do such a stupid thing since it would only cause the Misty Cloud Sect to lower its reputation." Fa Ma shook his head. He suddenly turned his head toward Hai Bodong behind him and asked uncertainly, "Old Hai, is there something wrong with you?"

As Fa Ma was an alchemist, his Spiritual Perception was comparatively stronger than Jia Xing Tian. Therefore, he was very sensitive and could sense the Dou Qi suddenly flowing turbulently within Hai Bodong's body.

"It's nothing." Hai Bodong shook his head and carelessly replied. His gaze, however, was staring intently at Xiao Yan's back. If his identity were to be exposed today, there would really be some trouble.

After Yun Leng's voice fell, the entire square descended into silence. There were only countless gazes which were adulterated with doubt, focused on the black figure, which did not make the slightest movement.

Yun Leng stared intently at the skinny back and a faint Dou Qi ripple began to brew on his palm. As soon as Xiao Yan made any action to flee, he would immediately stop him.

The atmosphere of the quiet open ground was depressing and strange.

The silence persisted for a while. Finally, the back which appeared like a solid rock statue moved a little. As the figure moved, Yun Leng's eyes were also slowly narrowed. His body leaned forward slightly, much like an eagle which was about to plunge forward and capture its prey.

"Is there something wrong, Elder Yun Leng?" A sudden indifferent voice which suddenly appeared, finally broke the silence of the square. It also caused Yun Leng, who was leaning slightly forward to stiffen his body.

Once again, countless gazes in the square turned. However, they were all currently gathered on Yun Leng's body. Other than some people, most of the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples were unclear why Yun Leng would suddenly stop Xiao Yan with his voice at this moment in time.

Yun Leng slowly stood up while being the center of attention. His gaze was dark and fierce as it stared at Xiao Yan. In a deep voice, he said, "I

wonder if Mister Xiao Yan has heard the news about the Misty Cloud Sect's external deacon, Mo Cheng of the Mo clan dying a few months ago?"

After Yun Leng spoke these words, private whispers began to immediately spread across the open ground. Mo Cheng's position within the Misty Cloud Sect was not low. Moreover, he had an outstanding socializing method. This had resulted in him having quite a good relationship with the members of the Misty Cloud Sect. Back then, when he died, a commotion arose within the sect. The law enforcement team had even been dispatched to Yan City to investigate. According to the information they had gathered, however, they only knew that two extremely strong, mysterious people had appeared and killed Mo Cheng. However, the Misty Cloud Sect did not have much information regarding the two mysterious people. Therefore, the death of Mo Cheng had been a thorn in the hearts of some elders who had quite a good relationship with Mo Cheng.

At such a moment, however, Yun Leng had suddenly brought this matter up. It was undoubtedly irrelevant. Could it be possible that he thought that the person who killed Mo Cheng was Xiao Yan?

As this thought flashed across their hearts, everyone felt it was somewhat funny. It should be known that Mo Cheng had already stepped into the Dou Ling class for many years. Xiao Yan, on the other hand, was at the very most a Da Dou Shi. The gap between the two of them was like that of the sky and the earth. How could Xiao Yan be related to that matter?

Yun Leng ignored the private conversations occurring in the square. He simply stared intently at Xiao Yan and waited for his response.

Xiao Yan's hand trembled slightly within his sleeves. He pursed up his lips and inhaled a deep breath within his heart. Suppressing his intense heartbeat, Xiao Yan slowly turned around and once again faced the countless Misty Cloud Sect disciples within the huge square. A voice which carried a tone as indifferent as the wind reverberating across open ground, "Elder Yun Leng, what are you implying by saying this? Don't tell

me that you think that Mo Cheng was actually killed by me?”

“Is that so?” Yun Leng softly laughed. He pointed to Ge Ye at his side and a low deep voice sounded, “Yanran and Ge Ye had coincidentally participated in Mo Cheng’s birthday celebration back then. Therefore, they were also present. During that time, Ge Ye had personally exchanged blows with that mysterious person and saw the other party’s face during the time that they fought. However, he had merely got a quick glimpse so it was a little blurry. It was due to this only a moment ago did he dare say for certain that the mysterious person...”

“Is you, Xiao Yan!” Yun Leng’s eyes widened as he let out a stern and loud cry.

Silence!

A deathly silence!

The atmosphere of those within the huge square appeared to have solidified. The expression on everyone’s face stiffened at this moment. Numerous dull gazes were foolishly eyeing Yun Leng, whose face was completely stern. Their minds, which were originally working, had slowly ceased operation under these words which were like an earth-shaking explosion.

On the huge tree, Fa Ma and Jia Xing Tian were also stunned by Yun Leng’s words. When the matter at Yan City occurred back then, Jia Xing Tian had personally hurried over. Therefore, he knew that the mysterious person who had killed Mo Cheng back then definitely had strength that was no weaker than his own. If it was indeed Xiao Yan who killed Mo Cheng, did that not mean that he was truly already on the same level as them?

A young man in his teenage years, who was still at a stage between being a youth and a young man was a Dou Huang? Even if one started training in his mother’s womb, something like that was absolutely impossible!

The two of them exchanged glances. Their brows were knit together. Although they clearly knew that conjecture of Xiao Yan being the mysterious person was very comical, their experience was far from what

those of the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples could compare with. These words of Yun Leng may appear extremely funny, but with his status, would he utter such ridiculous words without any basis? In other words, did he really have evidence to prove that Xiao Yan was the person who killed Mo Cheng?

If that were true, then did it not appear that this little fellow seemed to be a little overly terrifying?

Behind Fa Ma and Jia Xing Tian who were filled with doubt in their hearts, Nalan Jie, Mu Cheng, and the others had similarly entered a confused state at this moment. The words of Yun Leng were really a little too much of a blow to them. If what Yun Leng said was true, did that not mean that the strength which Xiao Yan currently displayed was merely the tip of the iceberg?

Under the solidified atmosphere of the entire place, Xiao Yan raised his head. His gaze slowly swept across the square. Each and everyone's dull expressions were absorbed into his eyes. A long while, his gaze paused on Nalan Yanran, whose pretty face was completely stunned. He suddenly laughed, turned his gaze toward Yun Leng and said, "Elder Yun Leng, I do feel a deep regretful for the death of your sect's deacon, Mo Cheng. However, this does not mean that you can randomly slander anyone. Everyone knows that Mo Cheng was at the Dou Ling level. Back then, the mysterious person had killed him in an extremely quick and straightforward manner. From all of this, it appears that the strength of the latter should at least be around that of the Dou Wang class. Don't tell me that you think I have that kind of strength? If that is the case, aren't you a little far too flattering in your opinion of me?"

"As for the evidence you have mentioned, it is merely Ge Ye's one sided story. With just this, you actually judge me to be the person who killed Mo Cheng. Isn't this a little too funny?"

Yun Leng coldly watched the smiling Xiao Yan. He also knew that Xiao Yan would absolve himself in this manner. Honestly speaking, if Ge Ye had not used his life to warrant his words, even Yun Leng himself did not dare guarantee that Xiao Yan was truly that mysterious person. After all,

the two of them were basically as far apart as the Heavens and Earth. How could they be associated with each other?

As he sighed in his heart, Yun Leng recalled the terrified manner of Ge Ye earlier, which did not appear to be a mere act. His heart once again calmed down. Turning his gaze abruptly to Nalan Yanran who was off to the side, he said in a deep voice, "Yanran, you were also present back then. Although you did not see the appearance of the other party, you should at least know something about the figure or some unique points between the two, no?"

Yun Leng's words immediately pulled all the gazes in the square over to Nalan Yanran, whose pretty face was still a little pale. This included the gaze of Xiao Yan, who stood at the edge of the square.

The sudden question caused Nalan Yanran, whose mind was still in a paste-like state, to be startled. She slowly turned her head, her eyes observed that indifferent young and delicate face. Immediately, her gaze began to carefully move over the latter's body.

As Nalan Yanran swept her gaze over, the hearts of everyone on the open ground were abruptly raised. At such a moment, the words of Nalan Yanran may not have a decisive impact, but it undoubtedly would increase Xiao Yan's suspicion.

The atmosphere of the square was quiet. A long while later, Nalan Yanran withdrew her gaze and shook her head. She slowly said, "First Elder, that mysterious person back then was wearing a very large robe, covering his actual figure. Therefore, I am unable to identify him."

Hearing this, Xiao Yan quietly released a sigh of relief within his heart. The expression of Yun Leng and the other's however, became a little ugly.

"That's right. I have just remembered. Back then, the mysterious person had displayed a kind of extremely terrifying white-colored flame when he killed Mo Cheng!" A somewhat sharp voice was suddenly shouted from the red faced Ge Ye's mouth.

Hearing Ge Ye's shout, the expressions of Fa Ma, Jia Xing Tian, Nalan Jie, and the others changed drastically. They had suddenly recalled that Xiao

Yan had once used an extremely mysterious white flame during the Alchemist Grand Meeting.

At this moment, an aghast covered the hearts of everyone!

At this moment, Xiao Yan's expression slowly became gloomy!

Chapter 344: Imminent

At this moment, everyone seemed to have sensed something. The atmosphere of the open ground was once again deathly quiet. Numerous shocked gazes stared at Xiao Yan who stood on the edge of the open ground.

“This fellow, don’t tell me, is he really that mysterious person who killed Mo Cheng back then?” Jia Xing Tian muttered. His normally smiling face had finally become serious at this moment.

“That is something that no one knows. However, Xiao Yan really did use a type of white-colored flame during the Alchemist Grand Meeting. Although the flame merely appeared for a moment before disappearing, I dare to guarantee that it should also be a type of ‘Heavenly Flame’!” Fa Ma’s soft voice contained an aghast that was difficult to hide. Two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’ existing together within a single body? Heavens, was this not a little too crazy?

“Ah, we still ended up leaving some loose ends.” Hai Bodong sighed helplessly in his heart as he turned his gaze toward Xiao Yan on the square. Currently, whether he was to fight with the Misty Cloud Sect or do something else would entirely depend on Xiao Yan’s performance.

The deathly quiet atmosphere covered the entire open ground. Xiao Yan was quiet for a long time before he suddenly took a step forward. As he took this step, it immediately caused the Misty Cloud Sect’s Elders to tense their entire bodies. Faint Dou Qi that was partially concealed began to shroud them.

“I’m sorry, I do not know what Affairs Manager Ge Ye is talking about.” Xiao Yan lifted his head and eyed the Misty Cloud Sect’s Elders who were prepared to take action at any moment. His brow was slightly knit together and his tensed body began to relax a little. His voice was calm when he spoke. Honestly speaking, he did not want a falling out with the Misty Cloud Sect. This huge faction, which has stood in the Jia Ma Empire for so many years, had a foundation that caused Xiao Yan’s heart to fear

regardless of how strong he was. Therefore, he would not completely become enemies with them until the last moment.

“Humph, you don’t know?” Hearing this, a cold smile surfaced on Yun Leng’s face. In a stern voice, he cried out, “Xiao Yan, the Yan Xiao who had become champion after participating in the Alchemist Grand Meeting is a disguise of yours. On this point, I can find more than ten people as witness. Do you think you can deny it?”

Xiao Yan was silent. Back then, in order to obtain the champion spot when he participated in the Alchemist Grand Meeting, he had exposed far too many trump cards. Yun Leng, as the First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect, naturally had an information network which far exceeded Xiao Yan’s expectation. Therefore, Xiao Yan did not feel surprised should he be able to find sufficient evidence.

With regards to this silence of Xiao Yan’s which represented a quiet admission, the corner of Yun Leng’s mouth rose up as if to gloat. He continued, “In the Alchemist Grand Meeting, you once used a type of white-colored flame. Moreover, its strength is extremely great. This is something that countless people have witnessed. I think that it cannot be a lie, no?”

“The number of people who are able to use a white-colored flame is countless. Don’t tell me that all of these people are the murderer of Mo Cheng?” Xiao Yan curled his lips and laughed coldly.

Yun Leng coldly said, “For other people, using a white flame does not represent anything. However, from Ge Ye’s recount earlier, your suspicion was already the greatest. Moreover, you even use the same kind of flame as that mysterious person. If these are all just coincidences, aren’t they a little too numerous?”

The tit for tat exchange caused the two people to instantly become the new main characters on the square. Numerous gazes were thrown on Xiao Yan. The gazes of many Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples were a mixture of fear and shock. They had difficulty believing that the young man who was around the same age as them was actually the mysterious strong person

who had easily killed Mo Cheng.

“The background of this Xiao Yan is rather mysterious.” Gu He fondled his chin as he slowly spoke while staring at Xiao Yan. As he heard the argument between the two of them and then connecting the matter to the green-colored flame, he understood the matter much more clearly in his heart. If what Yun Leng had said was true, the mysterious person who had benefitted from the fight of others in the vast desert the last time might well be this young fellow who was not even twenty years old.

A Dou Huang who was not even twenty years old? As he thought of this, he felt a sort of absurd feeling. Since when did it become so easy to reach the Dou Huang class? Even if he consumed high tier medicinal pills everyday, it would definitely be impossible to become a Dou Huang in less than twenty years.

Behind him, Liu Ling also laughed bitterly and shook his head. Not until this moment did he realize just how large of a gap existed between him and Xiao Yan. Each time he thought that the other party had reached his limit, another corner of the iceberg would surface, causing Liu Ling to be unable to catch up even if he wanted to.

The argumentative atmosphere in the open ground persisted for a while. Xiao Yan lifted his eyes and glanced at Yun Leng. He appeared to have also understood that this old fellow was determined not to let him leave today. At that moment, an impatience rose within his heart. He brushed his sleeves and coldly laughed, “Elder Yun Leng, I don’t wish to waste my breath with you. If you don’t have conclusive evidence, it would be better if you don’t randomly accuse others. Although the Misty Cloud Sect is powerful, it would not be too good if such a reputation were to spread. Moreover, my legs are a part my own body. It is not up to you to decide whether I leave or stay!”

Once he said this, Xiao Yan turned around and took a step down that rock stairs.

“I’m sorry, before we have fully investigated who killed Mo Cheng, Mister Xiao Yan may have to temporarily stay at the Misty Cloud Sect for

a period of time.” Yun Leng waved his hand and coldly cried out, “Law Enforcement Unit, stop him!”

As Yun Leng’s cry fell, around ten plus white cloaked figures suddenly rushed out of the nearly one thousand Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples. Dou Qi wildly surged. As their bodies moved, they instantly surrounded Xiao Yan in between them. Without saying any nonsense, the few cold faced members of the Misty Cloud Sect’s Law Enforcement unit flipped their hands. Longswords flashed out. With a swing of their longswords, the ten plus sword shadows surrounded Xiao Yan.

The Law Enforcement unit of the Misty Cloud Sect was formed from among the disciples with the most outstanding abilities, hand picked by the Elders of the sect. If one were to discuss their strength, they would be able to rank among the top within the Misty Cloud Sect. Moreover, they coordinated very well. Usually when the ten plus of them were to strike together, even some of the opponents whose strength exceeded theirs would have difficulty stopping them. This time around, the ten plus Law Enforcement unit disciples which had acted against Xiao Yan were clearly at the Dou Shi class based on the Dou Qi cloak which covered their bodies.

“Get lost!”

Xiao Yan’s expression was cold as he eyed the continuous sword shadows which were attacking from all directions. He let out a cold cry and his palm abruptly grabbed the ruler’s hilt from his shoulders. With a wave of his hand, the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler left his back. His feet stepped gently on the ground and his body immediately became like gyroscope as it instantly spun around at a great speed. The black-colored huge ruler carried a powerful force which spread out from the spot where he stood.

“Clang, clang, clang.” As the breeze whistled, numerous clear sounds of metal clashing were repeatedly emitted from the spot where the human figures came into contact.

“Bang!” Following this soft muffled sound, ten plus figures abruptly shot

out from the spot where blows were exchanged. Their feet were dragged across the ground for over ten meters before they slowly came to a stop. When they lowered their heads and eyed their longswords which were broken, the expressions of the members of the Law Enforcement unit disciples changed. This fellow really did not rely on luck to defeat Yanran shi-jie.

(TL: shi-jie – refer to a female senior of the sect or who shares the same teacher)

In one blow, Xiao Yan repelled over ten disciples of the Law Enforcement unit. His expression had also become a little gloomy. He turned around and coldly stared at Yun Leng. “What do you mean by doing this, Elder Yun Leng?”

“Mister Xiao Yan, before our suspicions of you are cleared, I’m afraid that you cannot leave the Misty Cloud Sect. Therefore, please obey the old me and stay at the Misty Cloud Sect for a period of time. Once the Sect Leader returns, we will investigate this matter in greater detail.” Yun Leng faintly said.

Xiao Yan’s eyes narrowed. An iciness flashed across his pupils. His gaze swept across the open ground and immediately stopped on Yun Leng’s body. The hand which he used to hold the hilt of the ruler tightened slightly. He then let out a long breath and his body also began to gradually relax.

Sensing Xiao Yan’s body relaxing, Yun Leng also quietly sighed in relief. Just as he thought that Xiao Yan intended to give up resisting, however, the latter suddenly stepped off the ground. Following an explosive sound, his body turned into a black shadow that shot toward the outside of the square.

“Stop him!” Xiao Yan’s sudden action caused Yun Leng’s face to grow cold as he cried out sternly.

As Yun Leng’s cry fell, Ge Ye by the side was actually the first to take action. Dou Qi violently surged out of his body. His feet stepped on the ground and his body immediately became just like an arrow which was

unleashed from a bow. In an instant, he crossed over half the length of the square. His shrivelled hand was curled and a few sharp breezes shot out. As the wind interlaced, it actually faintly locked onto Xiao Yan. This kind of swift and precise action was really worthy of being a strong person of the Dou Ling class.

The rushing, sharp wind that came from behind him caused Xiao Yan to furrow his brows. The Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand was abruptly inserted into the ground. His body, which was charging forward, came to a stop. Bending his knees, Xiao Yan immediately shot toward the sky. The Purple Cloud Wings appeared with the trembling of his shoulders. Without any hesitation, he flapped the pair of wings and wildly shot out of the Misty Cloud Mountain.

“Xiao Yan, you will stay behind!”

As he eyed Xiao Yan who was charging into the sky, Yun Leng let out a stern cry. He waved his hand and the bodies of three white robe elders, who were the oldest on the stone platform, vibrated. They actually slowly disappeared. When they reappeared, they were already in a triangle formation, completely blocking Xiao Yan’s path of retreat. Three surging Qis flooded out of the three bodies and their powerful suppressing force was firmly locked onto Xiao Yan.

In the sky, the Dou Qi wings on the backs of the three white robed elders slowly flapped. Due to the enormous Dou Qi spilling over, they actually caused the surrounding space to become a little distorted.

“Three Dou Wangs. The Misty Cloud Sect’s strength is indeed terrifying.” As he eyed the Dou Qi wings on the backs of the three white robed old men, Xiao Yan’s expression immediately became a little ugly.

“Xiao Yan, if you are not guilty, why are you in such a hurry to leave?” Yun Leng lifted his head and coldly eyed Xiao Yan. Immediately, his gaze glanced over toward the people gathered in the huge trees. In a deep voice, he said, “Everyone, seeing Xiao Yan’s action, it seems that Xiao Yan is really involved with Mo Cheng’s death. Therefore, before the Sect Leader returns, we cannot allow him to leave. This matter is quite serious and I

beg all of you for your understanding.”

These words of Yun Leng which carried a little sternness which caused Fa Ma and the others to knit their eyebrows together. They glanced at each other and decided to temporarily watch the situation.

Seeing that no one had come forward to stop them, Yun Leng also sighed in relief. His gaze once again turned toward Xiao Yan. He slowly raised his palm and was about to give the order to capture Xiao Yan.

“First Elder, is there some misunderstanding regarding this matter? I have exchanged blows with him earlier. If he really is the one who killed Mo Cheng, he would not have had such a tough battle with me.” Before Yun Leng gave the order, Nalan Yanran hesitated for a moment before she could no longer resist opening her mouth to speak.

“Yanran, you should temporarily not be concerned about this matter. No matter what, I must at least hold him until the Sect Leader returns. If I have really wronged him when that time comes, I, Yun Leng, will apologize to him.” Yun Leng waved his hand. His eyes coldly stared at Xiao Yan in midair as he waved his palm down.

“Capture him!”

As Yun Leng’s voice fell, the imposing presence of the three white robed old men who were in front of Xiao Yan soared abruptly. The pressure of the majestic force was like an imminent thunderstorm that covered the entire square.

A huge battle was imminent.

Chapter 345: Three Strong Dou Wangs

The majestic presence that was spread over the entire square directly caused Xiao Yan's figure to quickly fall more than ten meters before he managed to remove the suffocating breath within his chest. He raised his head and eyed the three white robed old men in a serious manner. His heart felt that things were getting a little tricky. Three Dou Wangs had personally attacked him. They appeared to think overly highly of him, who had a tiny name.

All of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples in the square lifted their heads and eyed the aerial battle taking place above them. They similarly felt that the sect was making too big of a fuss over a small issue by sending three Dou Wangs to capture Xiao Yan. It should be known that the strength of the three Elders in the sky combined would be enough to not have much difficulty stopping someone of the Dou Huang level.

Of course, they were not the only ones who had such thoughts. Even Mu Cheng and the others on the huge trees felt it was incredible.

Due to the special position of the Misty Cloud Sect, the strong people within the sect seldom participated in the so-called ranking for the strong within the Jia Ma Empire. Otherwise, wouldn't these old fellows take up more than half of the spots available? This kind of action would undoubtedly cause some of the strong people to feel dissatisfied within their hearts, something which the Misty Cloud Sect was unwilling to see. Therefore, other than the Sect Leader Yun Yun, there were no others from the Misty Cloud Sect in the ten strong rankings within the Jia Ma Empire. This also included these three old fellows.

However, if one were to discuss their strength, they were perhaps weaker than the Windwalker, Feng Li, and the other Dou Wangs who were renowned within the ten strong of the Jia Ma Empire, whom Gu He had invited to go with him to the desert to search for the Heavenly Flame. However, if they were to act in union and use the special Qi Methods of the Misty Cloud Sect along with coordinated Dou Techniques, even a Dou Huang would have difficulty taking them down in a short while. This time

around, the three of them actually acted together in order to catch Xiao Yan. It was no wonder that everyone in the square was speechless.

“It seems this little fellow is going to be in some trouble. With these three old fellows acting together, even if it was me, I would also be delayed for a while. If he cannot take out the same kind strength that he used to kill Mo Cheng, he would definitely have to stay at the Misty Cloud Sect today.” Jia Xing Tian eyed the battle in the sky and said faintly.

Fa Ma frowned slightly and nodded.

“Old Fa, aren’t you planning to take action? Hee hee, regardless of how one puts it, Xiao Yan is also an honored Elder of your alchemist association, no?” Jia Xing Tian suddenly turned his head toward Fa Ma and smiled as he asked.

“Seeing the situation now, Yun Leng appears to have made up his mind to hold Xiao Yan behind. Even if I step forward, I’m afraid that he would not change his decision.” Fa Ma shook his head and said, “You should also know the strength of the Misty Cloud Sect. I am the chairman of the Alchemist Association and represent the interest of the entire association. If I directly acted out to help Xiao Yan, that would damage the relationship between our two parties. Therefore, I can only find an opportunity to help him ask for mercy. As long as Xiao Yan is not the murderer of Mo Cheng, I think that Yun Yun will give me this face.”

Jia Xing Tian laughed. He naturally knew that it was impossible for Fa Ma to act at this moment and help Xiao Yan resolve this threat. Although their strengths were extraordinary, there were powers behind them and they couldn’t act as they pleased.

Hai Bodong, who overheard their conversation while standing behind the two of them, shook his head somewhat helplessly. It was really unexpected that the situation, which he was most unwilling to see, still happened. However, for the Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill, even if the thing in front of him was this huge mountain called the Misty Cloud Sect, he could only harden his head and charge forward.

“Xiao Yan, give up resisting. Before we have fully investigated the truth,

we will not harm you. All we ask is that you stay at the Misty Cloud Sect for a short period of time.” Yun Leng placed both his hands behind his back, raised his head and cried out loud.

The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth was smacked together as he let out a cold laugh. His gaze slowly swept across his surroundings, searching for an opportunity to break through. A moment later, however, he gave up this extravagant hope in disappointment. The three old men opposite him far surpassed him both in terms of combat experience and strength. Their defense was almost flawless, while their presence, which was spread throughout the open ground, had suppressed the altitude of his flight to a certain limit. If he were to go any higher, the united imposing presence of the three Dou Wangs would cause Xiao Yan to vomit blood and retreat.

Eyeing Xiao Yan who appeared to have ignored his words, Yun Leng’s face shook. He slowly released a breath and did not say any nonsense. With a sudden wave of his hand, he cried out in a deep voice, “Capture him!”

Just as Yun Leng’s voice fell, Xiao Yan, who was in the sky, suddenly shot wildly down toward the Misty Cloud Sect disciples who were seated cross-legged in the square. In this kind of situation he would only have the chance to escape if he created a commotion.

“Humph, little fellow, cease putting up a resistance!”

Unfortunately, Xiao Yan’s intention did not escape the eyes of the three Elders of the Misty Cloud Sect. A white haired old man in the middle flapped the pair of wings on his back. He turned into a wild wind and when he reappeared, he was actually in the path which Xiao Yan was using to plunge downward.

“Che!” Xiao Yan frowned intently as he watched the white haired old man who blocked his route. He softly cursed and flapped his wings, forcefully turning his body. His body had just turned when a white robed old man strangely flashed to a spot not far from his body. His withered palm aimed at Xiao Yan and he let out a faint cry, “Binding Wind.”

As the voice fell, a wild wind that came from all directions surged

violently out of the his palm. Immediately, numerous substance-like ropes began surrounding Xiao Yan in a lightning like manner.

The wind ropes were extremely swift. In the blink of an eye, they had enveloped all the space around Xiao Yan. The palm of the old man suddenly clenched and the wind ropes swiftly constricted. Immediately, it wrapped Xiao Yan within it just like a silkworm's pupa shell.

TL: Also known as the cocoon.

On the open ground, those Misty Cloud Sect's disciples had their mouths wide opened as they watched the white robed old man who had managed to capture Xiao Yan in his first move. They could not resist marvelling at the sight. It was really unexpected that a Dou Wang would actually be strong to such an extent. Xiao Yan, whom even Nalan shi-jie could not defeat, had been captured in merely one exchange. The difference between the two was indeed extremely large.

The white robed Elder in the sky who had displayed the 'Binding Wind', had just kept the wind pupa when his expression changed slightly.

"Puff!"

A soft sound appeared. The pupa which was densely covered by the wind robes suddenly spat out a green-colored human figure. At any spot where the human figure passed, the wind robe which was sufficient to endure the attack of a Da Dou Shi was instantly turned into nothingness.

"The 'Heavenly Flame' huh, it is indeed very strong."

The three Misty Cloud Sect's Elders were startled as they eyed the human figure which had shot out of the wind pupa. They exchanged glances before taking off once again. In an instant, the sound of rushing wind spread throughout the sky. It was difficult to see the three human figures clearly. Everyone could only see Xiao Yan who was wrapped within the green-colored flame as he repeatedly fled in all directions, trying to escape the bindings of the three Elders. From his appearance, he looked to be in somewhat terrible shape.

After the disorderly fleeing continued for another five minutes, the three

Misty Cloud Sect's Elders finally became a little impatient. Immediately, they ceased acting carefully because of the 'Heavenly Flame' on Xiao Yan's body. The three human figures flashed in union and they formed a triangle formation, trapping Xiao Yan within the area of the triangle which did not exceed five meters in length.

"Wind Fire Wood Wall!"

The three people let out a low cry. Their palms faced each other from a distance. Three different-colored Dou Qi which appeared like film surged out from them and immediately began to move toward each other in a lightning-like manner. In the blink of an eye, they came into contact with each other at the center. A triangular-shaped energy film was formed between the three of them, with Xiao Yan being in the middle of it.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the light film which had covered all directions. He waved his palm and a wisp of green-colored flame surged out. It adhered to the energy wall and its hot temperature caused the light film at the spot to tremble slightly. Each time a certain amount of light film was incinerated, however, another large amount of energy would immediately surge out, repairing it until it was even thicker.

Although Xiao Yan had the advantage of having a 'Heavenly Flame', it was unfortunate that the difference between their strengths was far too large. Moreover, the other party was actually three Dou Wangs who were acting together. If it were not because of the 'Heavenly Flame' which caused them some fear, they would have long since captured Xiao Yan.

"Dammit!" Xiao Yan eyed the indestructible energy prison, clenched his teeth and cursed softly.

Outside the energy prison, the energy on the palms of the three Misty Cloud Sect's Elders slowly moved. As the energy surge, the triangle shaped energy prison actually began to shrink.

As he eyed the energy prison which was slowly suppressing him as it moved closer, Xiao Yan's expression drastically changed. He flapped his wings and swiftly flashed toward the front side of the energy wall. Green-colored flame rushed out of his palm and violently smashed against the

energy wall, as Xiao Yan wanted to borrow the 'Heavenly Flame's' power to break it. Although this thought of his was good, it was unfortunate that it was an energy wall which the three Dou Wangs had created in union. With just his own strength, how could he break it?

When his fist struck the energy wall, only circular ripples spread out. However, there was no sign of the energy wall being shaken.

The Xiao Yan at this moment was like a bird being trapped in a cage. No matter how he flapped his wings, he could not escape this heaven's dragnet.

While the countless number of people below watched, the triangular shaped energy wall become increasingly small. At this moment, its original size which was tens of feet, was merely around two to three meters from Xiao Yan's body.

Everyone on the huge trees faced each other while Xiao Yan was about to be captured. However, there was not one person who took action. Only Nalan Jie's body moved a little. His foot stepped forward, but ultimately, he could not place it down. The expression on his face repeatedly changed. A long while later, he let out a sigh and slowly pulled back his step.

Within the triangle energy wall, Xiao Yan, who appeared to know that it was hopeless to escape, ceased his useless resistance. The green-colored flame on his body gradually retreated into his body. He indifferently glanced at the three elders outside the energy wall before slowly closing his eyes.

"Is he giving up?"

The brows of the three Elders of the Misty Cloud Sect twitched as they watched Xiao Yan who had closed his eyes. They waved their hands and the energy wall which was repeatedly shrinking by small amounts began to shrink much more abruptly.

The triangle energy wall became increasingly small in front of the eyes of countless number of people. Just as everyone thought that Xiao Yan would have difficult time escaping from this calamity, however, a change suddenly occurred!

“Ah.”

A somewhat helpless and faint sigh suddenly reverberated slowly across the sky. As this sigh fell, an icy cold air caused the temperature of the entire open ground to swiftly decline.

Sensing the temperature that had suddenly fallen, the three Misty Cloud Elders were startled. Immediately, their expressions changed wildly. Their gazes swiftly swept into the energy pillar, only to find an old back slowly appearing just like a ghost.

Once the old back appeared, cold air soared within the energy wall. The energy wall which was swiftly shrinking appeared to have received some sort of resistance that they could not withstand. Not only did it not continue to shrink, but it also began to expand swiftly under that soaring terrifyingly cold air.

The expressions of the three elders instantly became extremely ugly as they watched the energy wall which was becoming increasingly inflated. They hurriedly cried out, “Be careful, retreat!”

Just as the cry fell, a terrifying cold air suddenly erupted once again. Immediately, the energy wall which was about to reach its limit ceased to be able to resist this huge burden. With a huge explosion that resounded throughout the sky, the energy wall which was created from three Dou Wangs was actually forcefully shattered!

Countless number of stunned gazes watched the three elders in the sky who were swiftly retreating. A moment later, their gazes instantly shifted toward the spot where the energy pillar was shattered. Two figures were partially visible there.

On the ground below, Yun Leng’s expression had turned extremely ugly at this moment.

Chapter 346: Big Battle

The sudden change that appeared in the sky caused everyone in the open ground to be startled. Their gazes watched that old human figure which had slowly appeared. The expressions of some of the people who knew him immediately changed.

“Old Hai? He... why did he take action?” Jia Xing Tian’s face was completely dumbfounded as he spoke.

Fa Ma’s expression was similarly a little stunned. He did not expect that Hai Bodong would actually take the risk of causing conflict with the Misty Cloud Sect, and step forward to help.

The two people faced each other, both of them sensing something strange. Given Hai Bodong’s character, he did not appear to be someone who would help another in doing something so reckless.

“Looks like Xiao Yan has a great allure toward Old Hai. It even reached the point where Old Hai is willing to take action to stop the Misty Cloud Sect. This fellow is really making me increasingly curious as to what type of person he may be.” Jia Xing Tian shook his head. His voice contained some shock that was difficult to hide. He was extremely familiar with Hai Bodong’s character. If there was no reward that could move him, then this ice-like fellow would definitely not do something as brash as this. Just what magic did that little fellow who was not even twenty years old rely on in order to move a Dou Huang?

Fa Ma nodded slightly. His gaze swept to the sky as he softly said, “Now, let’s take a look at what is going to happen next. Ah, how could something so unexpected happen.”

The sudden action taken by Hai Bodong had immediately caused the situation of the square to become a little strange. The weight of someone at the Dou Huang class was something that no one dared to look down on, not even the Misty Cloud Sect!

Seeing the manner in which Hai Bodong acted, it was clear that he was standing on Xiao Yan’s side. In that case, the Misty Cloud Sect had to

carefully reconsider whether or not they wanted to capture Xiao Yan. If they were not careful, they might really cause a soul-stirring great battle.

Those in the square who knew Hai Bodong were a mere minority. Most of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples did not have much of an impression of this strong person who had hid his name and lived in isolation for decades. Therefore, when they saw that this old man with an unimpressive appearance was able to break the energy wall that the three elders had created together, shock and disbelief, which were difficult to hide, instantly covered their faces.

In the sky, the three elders who had retreated in a lightning-like manner, flapped their wings, and stopped their bodies. They lifted their heads, and eyed the old figure beside Xiao Yan. A seriousness involuntarily surfaced on their faces. Their gazes meticulously and slowly swept past Hai Bodong. A long while later, the oldest Misty Cloud Elder appeared to have suddenly recalled something. His expression changed drastically as he let out an involuntary cry, "Hai Bodong? Ice Emperor Hai Bodong? You are actually still alive?"

Hearing his cry, the other two old men at his side also recalled this name which had once shaken the Jia Ma Empire. Immediately, some changes occurred on their faces. The strong Dou Qi in their bodies appeared to involuntarily circulate. Given their age, they were also of the same generation which Hai Bodong belonged to. The only difference was that Hai Bodong was already a strong person who had shaken the Jia Ma Empire, when they were merely a Deacon within the Misty Cloud Sect. Therefore, when they saw his appearance, their hearts immediately became alert.

Hai Bodong glanced at the three of them before turning his head to look at Xiao Yan. He asked, "Are you alright?"

"If you still did not act, I was likely not going to be alright." Xiao Yan waved the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand and laughed bitterly.

"Ah, it is going to be troublesome today. I alone cannot stop all of them." Hai Bodong softly said.

“Don’t fight with them head on. It will be enough as long as we can leave this place.” Xiao Yan’s gaze slowly swept across his surroundings. His expression changed slightly as he realized that when he was entangled with the three of them earlier. Nearly a hundred Misty Cloud Sect disciples with middle aged appearance had appeared on the top of the huge trees around them. Seeing the manner in which they were dressed, which was different from an ordinary disciple and their bodies which were filled with Dou Qi, it was clear that most of their strengths were not weaker than his own.

“There is no problem with me leaving, but it is a little troublesome bringing you along. The members of the other party are not ordinary people. Fortunately, however, Yun Yun is absent. Otherwise, it would be completely impossible to leave.” Hai Bodong gaze randomly drifted to his surroundings. A little joy seeped into his words.

“Then I will trouble Old Hai.” Xiao Yan nodded his head and laughed bitterly.

“I will try my best.” There was little smile on Hai Bodong’s face. Using his own strength to contend against the numerous skilled Misty Cloud Sect personnel was something that even he as a Dou Huang, would not feel good doing.

“Hai Bodong, it is really unexpected that we can still see each other again after the farewell back then.” Yun Leng’s ugly expression slowly recovered significantly. He raised his head and eyed Hai Bodong in the sky. Not long after the latter had entered the capital, he had already gotten accurate news of his appearance. Therefore, his expression was not too shocked when he saw Hai Bodong this time around. It was only unexpected that he would actually make a move to help Xiao Yan.

“Hee hee, Yun Leng, your position has risen after all these years. The you back then appeared to have only entered the Misty Cloud Sect’s Elder’s Council. It is really unexpected that you have actually become the First Elder now.” Hai Bodong said faintly.

“Ke ke, this is all because the Sect Leader trusts these old bones of

mine.” Yun Leng smiled. Immediately, his expression became serious as he stared at Hai Bodong and said, “We can reminisce about the past later. You should know of our intention to hold Xiao Yan back. This matter concerns our Misty Cloud Sect’s reputation. Therefore, I hope that you will not randomly interfere in order to avoid damaging the relationship between the Misty Cloud Sect and the Primer clan’s relationship.”

Hai Bodong simply smiled with regards to the warning that Yun Leng had issued. He slowly said, “I’m sorry. Due to some reason, I must ensure Xiao Yan’s safety today. Therefore, I hope that you will let him leave on account of this thin face of mine. In the future, I, Hai Bodong will not forget this favor of yours.”

Hearing this, Yun Leng’s eyebrows were immediately knit together. In a deep voice, he said, “Hai Bodong, you know that this is something impossible. As a member of our Misty Cloud Sect, Mo Cheng’s contribution to it over the years is something that everyone in the sect had witnessed. If we remain indifferent when such a contributor were to die in such a dubious manner, how can we ensure that our disciples will have peace of mind in the future?”

“Ah, I also have my own difficulties.” Hai Bodong sighed and shook his head. From Yun Leng’s appearance, it seemed that it was impossible to bring Xiao Yan away by relying on those few words of his. He immediately ceased speaking nonsense. After taking a glance at his surroundings, he abruptly grabbed Xiao Yan. However, before he could make any move, Yun Leng, who had been staring intently at him, let out a stern cry, “Yun Li, the three of you stop him! All deacons of the Misty Cloud Sect, form the ‘Misty Wind Fog Array’!”

As Yun Leng’s cry fell, the three elders in the sky began to move. The three people formed a semicircle shape, completely locking Hai Bodong in. Those nearly one hundred deacons of the Misty Cloud Sect on the huge trees surrounding the open ground let out an ordered loud cry in union. Powerful Dou Qi erupted from within their bodies and numerous white-colored, fog-like energies began spitting out of their palms like waterfalls. Over a hundred fog-like energies began to intertwine around each other

before swiftly spreading. In merely an instant, it formed a bowl-shaped energy cover which was just sufficient enough to completely encase the entire square within.

“Bang, bang!”

At the moment that the energy encasement was formed, Hai Bodong protected Xiao Yan with one hand while using an extremely violent and unreasonable manner to ferociously break through the defence of the three elders. In a lightning like manner, they flashed to the bottom of the energy cover. He waved his hand and an icy energy pillar around ten feet in height shot out violently and heavily smashed on the energy cover. The energy cover wobbled slightly, but it was strong enough that it was not immediately shattered.

“Dammit, what a hard tortoise shell.”

(TL: Not literally a tortoise shell but a tortoise is a sort of insult.)

Hai Bodong was about to continue attacking the energy cover after letting out a soft curse when three ferocious forces came at him from behind. As the three force flew, they actually began to merge and their power soared after that. This forced Hai Bodong to have no choice but to turn around. With a wave of his hand, a tough, cold, icy mirror was swiftly agglomerated in front of him, blocking the soaring force.

“You should step aside first. Be careful. Give me ten minutes!” Hai Bodong waved his hand and skillfully sent Xiao Yan behind him out of the battle circle while he said in a deep voice.

After sending Xiao Yan away, Hai Bodong’s expression gradually became colder. Icy cold Dou Qi gushed out from his body. Immediately, one could see the water vapor contained in the surrounding air immediately begin to solidify into countless of tough ice grains. He flicked his hand and the ice grains carried the whistling wind sound and violently smashed toward the three Misty Cloud Sect’s Elders from all directions.

The three Elders did not dare to underestimate this person who was once known as the Ice Emperor. The Dou Qi in their body simultaneously surged out and the three different elemental Dou Qis began to merge

together, forming an indestructible defence.

In the distant sky, Hai Bodong's figure flashed. He carried an extremely cold air as he began to launch waves of continuous attacks against the three Elders in a tyrannical manner. Although the three of them could merge their Dou Qi to fight their opponents, they were still forced to retreat in defeat under Hai Bodong's strong attacks. If it were not for the great coordination between the three of them, they would have long since been someone who was defeated.

Cold wind continuously blew through the sky which was covered by a white-colored energy. The sounds of explosions from the contact of energy repeatedly sounded in everyone's ears. The battle, which was extremely intense, caused the Misty Cloud Sect disciples below to be completely stunned.

Yun Leng narrowed his eyes and watched the three elders who were suppressed until they repeatedly retreated in defeat. He then glanced at Xiao Yan, who was floated on another corner of the sky. A cold smile involuntarily left his mouth. His shoulders shook and a pair of Dou Qi wings slowly sprung out.

With a flap of both wings, Yun Leng's body began to swiftly rise into the air under everyone's gaze. Finally, he directly charged toward Xiao Yan.

When he heard the sound of rushing wind from below, Xiao Yan hurriedly lowered his head. Immediately, his expression changed. The pair of wings on his back flapped and his body was swiftly pulled back.

"Hei, you want to leave? Regardless of why Hai Bodong wants to protect you, as long as I take you down first, he would likely not dare do anything." Yun Leng let out a cold smile as he spoke while watching Xiao Yan swiftly pull back. His toes pressed on the empty space and his speed once again soared. In the blink of an eye, he approached Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan eyed Yun Leng approaching and hurriedly flapped his wings to escape.

In the sky, two figures were flying, one chasing and one fleeing. The figure behind, however, was quickly narrowing the distance between the

two. At one moment, he had finally entered into an attacking range. Yun Leng violently stomped his feet on empty space. His body turned into blurry lightning. When he next appeared, he was actually blocking the path that Xiao Yan was using to flee. His body charged forward and the shriveled hand of his grabbed at Xiao Yan's throat like an eagle claw which was carrying a sharp aggressive force that caused Xiao Yan's skin to feel a piercing pain.

The speed at which Yun Leng acted was as fast as lightning. When Xiao Yan had just noticed it, his hand claw was already less than half a meter in front of him!

Within those dark black pupils, the hand claw which carried a sharp force was swiftly magnified in size.

The hand claw which was carrying a sharp force cut through the empty space and directly pointed at Xiao Yan's neck!

In the distance, Hai Bodong had also noticed the situation happening to his side. His expression immediately changed drastically. He wanted to quickly rush forward to assist Xiao Yan, but the three Misty Cloud Elders appeared to have gone crazy. They took the risk of being seriously injured and used all their might to perform a union attacking Dou Tecdhnique, forcefully delaying Hai Bodong, causing him to be unable to pull away.

At this moment, the gazes all around were paused on the spot where Xiao Yan and Yun leng were at. If Xiao Yan was captured, the big fight this time around would completely come to a stop.

"Looks like it is about to be over. It is difficult for Hai Bodong alone to successfully bring Xiao Yan away from the Misty Cloud Sect." Jia Xing Tian smacked his lips together and sighed.

Fa Ma nodded slightly. He was about to say something when his expression suddenly changed. His gaze abruptly turned toward the direction Xiao Yan in, "That's not right! What's that?"

At this moment, another change once again occurred on the battleground!

Chapter 347: The Appearance of The Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python

Just as Yun Leng was about to capture Xiao Yan in the distant sky, the latter's sleeve abruptly trembled. Immediately, a thick and large shadow shot forth. It instantly swung violently on Yun Leng's hand with a terrifying strength that actually shook the air until waves of sharp explosive sounds were emitted from the vibrations.

At the moment when the seven-colored figure appeared, Yun Leng also sensed something. His face immediately changed wildly, but before he could hurriedly pull himself back, that seven-colored figure had already swung heavily at his hand. A flush instantly surged onto Yun Leng's face and numerous soft muffled groans were spat from his throat. His body was like a rubber ball that had been sent flying as it was swiftly forced back.

The sudden change in situation in the sky directly caused Hai Bodong and those three Misty Cloud Sect's elders presently fighting in the square to involuntarily cease their attacks. Their gazes were stunned as they watched the direction which Xiao Yan was in. It was a little better for Hai Bodong, but those who were unfamiliar with Xiao Yan were so shocked that their jaws nearly fell. In the Misty Cloud Sect, other than Yun Yun, there were few others who could defeat Yun Leng, given his strength. However, the him earlier was actually forced back by Xiao Yan who was at the Da Dou Shi class?

"What was that thing just now?" Jia Xing Tian's mouth widened as he stood in the huge tree. His face was a little serious and at a loss as he asked. Due to the terrifying speed at which the shadow attacked, he could not see it clearly even with the abilities of his eyes. He could only vaguely sense that something appeared which shot out from Xiao Yan's sleeve. That Yun Leng was forced back by that thing.

"It appeared to be a tail." Fa Ma hesitated for a moment and said in an uncertain manner.

“Tail?” Hearing this, Jia Xing Tian was stunned. He frowned intently while staring at Xiao Yan in the sky, “It is another trump card that was never revealed? Don’t tell me that this fellow is really that mysterious strong person who killed Mo Cheng?”

In the face of Xiao Yan revealing trump cards which were increasingly shocking, Jia Xing Tian’s heart also began to shake. The gaze which he used to look at Xiao Yan in midair began to have something more to it.

“Brat, what is that in your sleeve?” Yun Leng, who was forced back by tens of meters in the sky finally got rid of the terrifying force which had been transmitted to his palm. His lowered hand trembled slightly as he cried out loud while eyeing the distant Xiao Yan with an ugly expression.

The sudden turn of events also caused Xiao Yan to be startled. Quickly following this, however, he appeared to have understood something. A wild joy swiftly surfaced on his face. Before he spoke, his sleeve moved agitatedly and a seven-colored shadow shot out. As a clear hissing sound was emitted, a small seven-colored snake began to happily wander around Xiao Yan’s body. The sunlight shone onto its small body, reflecting a seven-colored glow. At a glance, it appeared very beautiful.

The small seven-colored snake was naturally the ‘Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python’ which had been in a deep slumber. It was really unexpected that this little fellow had actually awakened when Xiao Yan was at his most pressing moment, helping him avoid disaster.

After the ‘Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python’ appeared, the expression of Yun Leng, who had been staring at this spot, became gloomy. It was likely that he had recognized that the thing which had forced him back a moment ago was this beautiful thing which appeared completely harmless.

“A rank five Magical Beast. I didn’t expect that you were hiding such a thing.” Yun Leng twisted his wrist which was numb from the shock of the huge force, as he said with a cold smile.

Xiao Yan glanced at him, but chose to ignore his words. His hand gently rubbed the body of the ‘Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python’ whose

body was as cool as jade. As he watched the pair of snake eyes which faintly had a flirtatious feeling to them, his heart trembled involuntarily. This little thing increasingly appeared to have a presence similar to Queen Medusa. Did the spirits of the two finally begin to merge?

Xiao Yan's rubbing caused the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' to seem extremely satisfied. It repeatedly used its small head to press against the former's palm. Its snake tongue repeatedly licked at the storage ring on Xiao Yan's hand. A covetous look, which Xiao Yan was familiar with, once again appeared in those coquettish snake eyes.

When he discovered the greedy action of it, Xiao Yan quietly sighed in relief within his heart. He flicked his finger and a bottle of 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' appeared in his palm. His finger was extended into it and gently poked, allowing two drops to stick onto it. After which, he carefully allowed the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' to lick it clean.

After eating two drops of delicious 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence', the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' closed its snake eyes and sensed the warm feeling emitted as the hot energy flowed within its body.

"Hei, little thing, you need to work after eating." Xiao Yan's finger gently tapped the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python's' head. His smiling manner was like a wicked uncle who was tempting an underage girl into do something wrong.

"If you defeat him, I will give you more of this. What do you say?" Xiao Yan shook the 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' in front of the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' before immediately pointing toward Yun Leng in front of him and smiled as he said.

Perhaps it was due to Queen Medusa, but during this period of time, Xiao Yan could sense that the strength of this 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' was growing increasingly strong despite this little thing being in a deep slumber. The strength which it had displayed when forcing Yun Leng back would not be weaker than a rank 5 Magical Beast. If that was translated to the classification of humans, it would be equivalent to a Dou Wang.

At this current moment, a helper who could contend with a Dou Wang was undoubtedly blessing sent by heaven for Xiao Yan, who had been chased until he was badly battered.

When it heard Xiao Yan's words, the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' widened its eyes and considered it for a moment. With its current intelligence it could naturally understand the meaning of Xiao Yan's words. After a brief hesitation, it finally could not resist the temptation of the 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence'. It shook its tail, turned around, and stared at the distant Yun Leng with its snake eyes. The seven-colored glow on its body abruptly soared. As the glow bloomed, the body of the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' actually became like a balloon which had air blown into as it swiftly became larger.

In front of the countless number of shocked eyes in the square, the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python', which was originally only a foot long, had turned into a huge being that was tens of feet long in just an instant.

The seven-colored huge snake floated in the air. Its snake scales reflected a seven-colored glow. If its snake body possessed claws at this moment, it would be similar to a living dragon.

Following its body being enlarged, a powerful energy also slowly overflowed from within the body of the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python', causing the surrounding air to form a ripple much like a water wave.

The huge snake lingered in the sky. Its enormous body was something that stunned not only the people below, but even Xiao Yan himself. He did not expect that this little thing which had always been of small pocket sized being was actually able to transform into such an appearance which was extremely eye piercing.

The 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' which had suddenly turned huge also caused Yun Leng to inhale a breath of cold air. His expression gradually became grave. Turning his head toward the battleground of Hai Bodong and the few others, he shouted, "Yun Li, the

few of you should temporarily stop Hai Bodong. Leave this thing to me! All the Misty Cloud Sect's deacons, think of ways to capture Xiao Yan!"

After having come into contact with it earlier, Yun Leng had managed to vaguely estimate the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python's' strength. Although the latter could also be considered a rank five Magical Beast, Yun Leng had quite a lot of confidence if they were to really start fighting. The high class Dou Techniques which he had trained with were sufficient enough to cause this strange Magical Beast of unknown origin to suffer greatly.

"Hey, it is really unexpected that Xiao Yan was actually still hiding such a high rank pet. I actually didn't even know of it's existence." Hai Bodong could not resist smacking his lips and praising as his shocked gaze slowly moved away from the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python's' body.

"Yun Leng, today, you better not lose unexpectedly in front of the younger generation. Otherwise, you will really lose a lot of face." Hai Bodong laughed out loud as his gaze once again turned toward the serious looking Yun Leng. Immediately, he flapped that icy cold pair of wings on his back and charged violently toward the three Misty Cloud Sect's Elders who were solemnly waiting. He laughed coldly, "Hee hee, since I don't have to worry about the situation there, let me completely try and see whether your merging Dou Techniques is stronger than the icy cold Dou Qi of this old man."

The corner of Yun Leng's eyes drifted toward Hai Bodong and the others who had once again started fighting like rocks colliding against each other. His gaze then swiftly turned toward the distant spot where the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' was located. His expression was serious and his hands were slowly extended out of his sleeves. A somewhat grayish white Dou Qi gradually appeared and finally covered his entire arm. At one glance, it appeared like a rock arm with an extremely great hardness.

"Hiss hiss."

The forked snake tongue quietly extended and pulled back. After turning

into a huge body, those snake eyes of the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python', which originally appeared somewhat bewitching, finally had some additional ferocity that was part of its nature. Poisonous fangs crossed each other within its huge mouth, emitting a thick cold glow.

Two strong presences in the sky were slowly being spread out from the human and the beast. Adding in the powerful force that was being emitted from the battleground where Hai Bodong was at, the faces of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples on the entire open ground twitched involuntarily. Who would have thought that in order to capture a little fellow who was merely of the Da Dou Shi class, they would end up provoking a strong Dou Huang and a rank five Magical Beast which was able to contend with a Dou Wang?

As he watched the person and the beast who had began to emit pressure with their presence, Xiao Yan flapped the pair of wings on his back and hurriedly retreated some distance. His heart also quietly sighed in relief. The appearance of the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' had really settled his predicament. From the looks of the situation now, the Misty Cloud Sect should no longer have any more Dou Wangs within it. In that case, as long as he carefully controlled his flying height, the strength of those deacons should not be able to capture him. When that time came, all he needed to do was to wait for Hai Bodong to finish off those three Misty Cloud Sect's Elders and he could completely extricate himself from this predicament today.

In the sky, a human and a beast faced each other from afar. Their imposing presence placed pressure on people, much like an imminent storm.

At a certain moment, the imposing presences which were spread all over became stagnant. Yun Leng's hands opened and closed and a large, gray-colored energy sword was extended out from his palm. The wings on his back were flapped and his body cut through the empty air, leaving behind a long scar in the sky.

At the moment Yun Leng's body moved, the 'Seven-Colored Heaven

Swallowing Python' also abruptly raised its head. It let out a clear hiss and its huge body displayed a terrifying speed, which shocked everyone.

A human and a beast cut through the long space and an instant later, collided with each other in front of everyone's eyes!

Chapter 348: The Tragedy of Yun Leng

Two glowing figures instantly flashed across the horizon in the sky. Immediately, they met in a violent collision in front of a countless number of gazes.

At the moment of collision, furious, explosive thunderous roars resounded across the sky, causing some people below to be unable to resist covering their ears. Their faces were filled with shock as they watched the spot where the two forces met.

Perhaps it was because his Qi Technique was the type which was suitable for head on fighting, but Yun Leng had adopted the most ferocious and strongest close-ranged wild attacks the moment that he came into contact with the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Serpent'. As he moved, his attacks carried a sharp rushing wind sound as they borrowed the agility of his body to violently strike the eyes, nose, and other weak spots of the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python'.

Although Yun Leng was extremely agile, the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' was not slow either. Not only did its huge body not reduce its speed, it also gave it an extreme increase in strength. As its huge tail was agilely swung, the terrifying force emitted a vast momentum which appeared almost as though it wanted to break the space. A sound like an explosion blasted the surrounding air until it created numerous vacuum spots.

The two figures in the sky may have had completely different sizes, but they were both able to emit terrifying force and strength that was on par with each other.

Yun Leng's expression was grave as he tightly held the rock sword in his hand. The pair of wings on his back repeatedly flapped and his body did not pause at any one spot for more than three seconds. Each time his body moved, the rock sword in his hand would carry a ferocious force that would draw out numerous afterimages that would cause people to be dazzled as it heavily hacked at the body of the 'Heaven Swallowing

Python'. Unfortunately, after their earlier contact, Yun Leng had already discovered that this seven-colored Magical Beast of unknown origin had a strength, agility, and even a grasp of danger that was not inferior to any ordinary Dou Wang. Each time he unleashed his Dou Technique, the other party would instantly coil its body up. If it could dodge, it would do so. If it could not, it would use its incomparably hard snake scales to forcefully withstand the attack.

TL: The rock sword is a Qi sword, but because his attribute is earth it appears like a sword made of stone.

Therefore, despite the unceasing attacks of Yun Leng, just like the waves in the sea, he was unable to cause much damage to the other party. Moreover, the thing which caused Yun Leng's heart to sink was that this seven-colored Magical Beast had great intelligence. It appeared to have far surpassed the wisdom that an ordinary rank five Magical Beast possessed. Its grasp of explosions in combat was like a strong person who had experienced numerous battles. Its combat experience did not appear to be in any way inferior to his.

This thought was swiftly calculated in his mind. At a certain moment, Yun Leng's skin abruptly tightened. His body moved some distance left as a conditional reflex. The rock sword in his hand which was agglomerated from energy quickly pierced forward.

"Chi."

The rock sword was shot explosively out only to face a cluster of seven-colored liquid that violently swarmed over. A 'chi chi' sound was emitted the moment that the rock sword came into contact with the liquid. The hard rock sword which could withstand a full force blow from a Dou Ling, appeared to be like foam meeting fire, and was swiftly being incinerated and corroded. In an instant, merely half of it was left.

"What a potent poison."

Yun Leng's brows were knit together as he watched the corroded energy sword. The seven-colored liquid remained dissatisfied and it swiftly spread over towards his hand. Yun Leng immediately made the decision to

abandon the rock sword. Having lost the Dou Qi needed to maintain it's form, the rock sword which had left his hand swiftly became illusionary and finally slowly disappeared.

After the rock sword left his hand, Yun Leng did not have the time to do anything else when a low and deep explosion sounded suddenly above his head. He abruptly raised his head as a huge shadow came smashing downward, carrying an incomparably terrifying energy.

“Shoshonite shield!”

Yun Leng's hands quickly formed some seals and the Dou Qi in his body flowed swiftly. There was some sort of energy in the surrounding air with similar affinity as the Dou Qi in Yun Leng's body that instantly aggregated. A soft sound immediately followed and a huge rock shelf that was a few meters thick appeared above his head from nowhere.

“Bang!”

The huge tail violently smashed downward and landed heavily on the rock shield. A force which was incomparably fierce directly caused numerous crack lines to spread on that thick shield. Once again, the tail violently pressed down and the rock shield, which appeared hard, burst apart!

Rocks shot in all directions. As the rock dust permeated the place, a figure suddenly shot out from within it. In an instant, it appeared on the head of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’. A loud cry was emitted and a gray white glow suddenly soared on a fist. A rock glove that was over a foot thick appeared on Yun Leng's hand in the blink of an eye. With an angry stare, he punched the head of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ which could not dodge in time.

“Bang!”

This furious attack by Yun Leng smashed solidly against the head of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’. The seven-colored scales at the spot where the fist landed finally cracked. Threads of fresh blood seeped out.

“Hiss!”

A pain that was transmitted from the head caused the 'Heaven Swallowing Python's' eyes to immediately become red. The ferociousness that was hidden within its bones also finally completely erupted. Its huge tail abruptly drew back and once again carried a dark shadow as it violently smashed toward Yun Leng, who was pulling back, but the tail moved at lightning-like speed that could not be dodged.

The dark shadow arrived in the blink of an eye, Yun Leng, who could not pull back in time could only hurriedly lift his arm which was covered by a rocky substance, placing it in front of his head. An instant later, the huge force abruptly penetrated into his arm. The huge force directly smashed Yun Leng into the ground. Finally, a loud 'bang' sounded and his pair of legs were like long pikes that were directly inserted into the hard square. Numerous crack lines began to spread out from where his legs were in front of everyone's stunned gazes.

"What a terrifying force." As they eyed the crack lines which had almost spread to the edge of the open ground, some Misty Cloud Sect disciples swallowed a mouthful of saliva and muttered extremely nervously.

Yun Leng's legs shook, breaking free from the ground where his legs were stuck. He flapped his wings and once again soared into the air. His expression was a little pale. Only at this moment did he realize that he had truly underestimated this snake-shaped Magical Beast of unknown origin. His original hope of relying on his Dou Technique to swiftly push it back was already something that was impossible. His gaze swept over to the battle where Hai Bodong was at. There, the three elders had already been suppressed by Hai Bodong until they could merely retreat together and defend themselves. It appeared that the three of them would lose quite soon.

With a tight frown, Yun Leng once again swept his gaze toward the other side of the sky. At that spot, Xiao Yan was flapping his wings and watching their fight as though he was watching a show.

"I must capture him. But all those people who can use Dou Qi wings are already involved in a fight with the other party's strong person. The rest of the people may have combat ability that is stronger than Xiao Yan's, but

they are disadvantaged in that they are unable to fly for an extended period of time.” Yun Leng furrowed his brows as he softly mumbled, “I can only try to get those Elders who practice wind type Qi Methods to try. As long as Xiao Yan is captured, all of these battles will naturally cease!”

After thinking of this, Yun Leng lowered his head and displayed a hand gesture to the few elders seated on the stone platform. Immediately, he turned around once again and headed toward the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’.

The ten plus elders on the high platform were slightly startled as they eyed Yun Leng’s gesture. They exchanged glances and four old men nodded. The four stood up and a pale-green-colored Dou Qi from within their bodies shrouded them. A gentle breeze suddenly surfaced around them and blew their clothes until they fluttered in the wind.

Borrowing the lift from the breeze, the four white robed old men actually rose slowly into the air. Immediately, they separated in a well coordinated manner as they began to surround Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan noticed this the moment the four white robed elders rose into the air. Immediately, he flapped his wings and carefully maintained a safe distance from these four elders. Although these four people were not as strong as the three elders who were holding off Hai Bodong, one could tell from their forceful Qis that they were strong people who were at least of the Dou Ling class. Xiao Yan did not dare to directly exchanged blows with them.

The four elders did not appear anxious upon seeing Xiao Yan pulling back. They still rose slowly in the air. The four of them formed a quadratic shape, hinting that they wanted to lock Xiao Yan in their middle.

Xiao Yan’s body was suspended in the air as he intently watched the white robed elders approach him from four different directions. As he had the experience of being nearly trapped by those three elders earlier, he paid more attention to the spots where these fellows stood. Therefore, when he saw that the positions where they stood was a little strange, he hurriedly moved his body and escaped the enclosure of the four of them

from a lower height. He was like a housefly with no direction as he began to scurry around randomly in the air in order to prevent the four of them from forming a certain orderly position.

The four elders felt extremely helpless in the face of the crafty actions of Xiao Yan. Without the support of a pair of Dou Qi wings, their flying speed could not keep up with Xiao Yan. Therefore, they could only carefully move closer, waiting for the other party to reveal a certain opening before swarming in together.

However, the four of them had underestimated the degree of caution Xiao Yan possessed. Even if this fellow had to use all his strength and repeatedly use Dou Qi, he did not come into any contact with any of the four of them. After this completely meaningless chase persisted for a while, the four elders finally felt a little impatient. Immediately, a huge blanket of never ending wind blades appeared in the empty sky and shot wildly toward Xiao Yan. They aimed to use this as an attempt to create an opening which they could use to carry out their capture.

Unfortunately, however, Xiao Yan, who had the protection of the 'Heavenly Flame', was not too concerned about those wind blades. He even summoned out the Dou Qi Armor. Even if some of those wind blades passed through the defense of the green flame, it would merely leave a white-colored scar on his armor.

Xiao Yan's body repeatedly flashed and dodged. He borrowed the gap in the time between the attacks to glance all over with the corner of his eyes. At Hai Bodong's side, the three Dou Wangs of the other side had already fought to the point where they did not have the strength to resist. Their combined defense was also becoming increasingly weak under that seemingly wild attack of Hai Bodong. From the looks of it, the three of them should not be able to last much longer.

On the other side, Yun Leng's strength had clearly far exceeded those three elders if one were to compare them individually. Therefore, even though the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was very strong, it had some difficulty defeating him. Currently, both parties had entered into a tough battle where neither could do anything to their opponent.

With narrowed eyes, Xiao Yan glanced at the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' which was locked in a bitter battle with Yun Leng. He held the heavy ruler tightly in his hand and he moved his body once again to dodge the wave of wind blades while waiting for an opportunity.

The fierce fighting in the sky continued for a few minutes. Finally, as an intense energy explosion sounded, three human figures, in extremely terrible conditions, slid down from the sky. Finally, they smashed into the ground, leaving behind three deep indentions in the hard ground.

Everyone quickly swept their eyes over only to find that the three people who had fallen were actually the three Dou Wangs who were fighting Hai Bodong. Currently, the expressions of the three were a little green from the low temperature. Cold air curled upward as it began to seep into the air above their heads. Their bodies repeatedly shivered.

"There is my icy cold Qi within your bodies. If you quiet down and expel them, you will be fine after an hour. However, if you continue to use Dou Qi during this period of time, the cold air will corrode your Qi Paths. When that time comes, your internal injuries will have reached a point where they cannot be recovered without at least ten days to half a month's time." Hai Bodong slowly exhaled while he was in the air before glancing at the three of them and speaking faintly.

Hearing this, the expressions of the three Misty Cloud Sect's Elders changed. They exchanged glances with one another and could only hurriedly sit cross-legged in a bitter manner. They circulated their Dou Qi and began to expel the cold air from their bodies.

"Tsk tsk, Old Hai's icy cold Qi is not any weaker than it was back then." Jia Xing Tian smacked his lips and laughed as he eyed Hai Bodong which was able to temporarily cause three Dou Wangs to lose their ability to fight within a short ten plus minutes.

"Ah, the strength of those three fellows is only around that of two to three stars Dou Wangs. Although they managed to delay Hai Bodong for a period of time by borrowing the effect of their merging Dou Techniques, they did not last long." Fa Ma nodded slightly. His gaze swept toward

where the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was and said frowning, "What species in this Magical Beast? Why have I never heard of it? Its strength is quite good and is actually able to reach a stalemate with Yun Leng."

Jia Xing Tian's face was similarly a little lost. His gaze stared at the huge snake shaped body and muttered, "For some unknown reason, This thing keeps giving me some sort of familiar feeling. But after thinking carefully, I have also never met such a seven-colored snake shaped Magical Beast."

Fa Ma let out a sigh. In his heart, he felt that Xiao Yan was someone whom he couldn't figure out. He really did not know where Xiao Yan had gotten this mysterious and strong Magical Beast.

After Hai Bodong managed to defeat and force back those three Misty Cloud Sect's Elders in the sky, his body instantly began to move. He swiftly appeared at the edge of the energy cover. With a sudden wave of his hands, waves of incomparably powerful cold energy surged out and repeatedly collided against the energy cover. Each time they collided, they would cause the faces of one or two among the nearly one hundred deacons of the Misty Cloud Sect to instantly become pale as their bodies immediately swayed, reaching the point where they were about to fall.

Under this wild attack of Hai Bodong, that thick white-colored energy cover was repeatedly becoming blurred at a speed visible to the naked eye.

"Hai Bodong, you better not go too overboard!" As his anger-filled eyes watched the energy cover which had become shaky and about to fall, Yun Leng, who could not extract himself from the entanglement with the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' could only cry out angrily.

The furious cry had just fell when Yun Leng's expression changed. One could see that the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' had took the opportunity of him being distracted to once again abruptly spit out a huge cluster of seven-colored liquid from its huge mouth.

"Dammit!" Yun Leng let out a soft curse. He hurriedly pulled back while his hands danced and numerous thick rock walls repeatedly appeared on the path which he was using to retreat.

The seven-colored liquid destroyed everything in its path as it corroded

past. The hard rock wall appeared to have very little effect. However, as Yun Leng was pulling back in a somewhat flustered manner, he did not notice that his distance from Xiao Yan was growing increasingly close.

“If I find an opportunity to force Yun Leng back, it is likely that there will be no one left in the Misty Cloud Sect to prevent me from leaving!” As Xiao Yan did not need to put in much effort to keep the four elders in check, he had been paying close attention to the battles in the sky. That Yun Leng, who was pulling back in a panicked manner was also noticed by him.

Xiao Yan’s palm abruptly held the ruler’s hilt tightly. He suddenly turned his body and he actually directly flew toward Yun Leng under a countless number of gazes.

“Is this fellow allowing himself to get caught?” As they watched Xiao Yan’s action, nearly everyone’s hearts began to mutter in this stunned manner.

Ignoring those puzzled gazes, Xiao Yan held the ruler’s hilt tightly with both hands. He slowly lifted it and inhaled a deep breath. At this moment, the Dou Qi in his body was like boiling water as it abruptly began to fluctuate. The dark black ruler’s body had suddenly become fiery red, much like superheated iron.

A flush also instantly swarmed up Xiao Yan’s face following the change in the Heavy Xuan Ruler’s color. The diamond shaped ‘Dou Crystal’ within the vortex of his body quavered gently, emitting waves of enormous Dou Qi energy. After which, the energy moved along his Qi paths and completely poured into the Heavy Xuan Ruler!

“First Elder, be careful!” As they eyed the heavy ruler of Xiao Yan which had suddenly become fiery red, the four elders who had been chasing Xiao Yan in the air hurriedly let out a warning cry.

“Humph, a little fellow who doesn’t know the immensity of the Heaven and Earth!”

Yun Leng had sensed Xiao Yan when the latter was flying toward him. However, most of Yun Leng’s attention was placed on the ‘Heaven

Swallowing Python', which was chasing after him. In the face of Xiao Yan's attack, he randomly summoned a rock wall that was around half a foot thick. He thought that with Xiao Yan's strength, this rock wall would be enough to block any fierce attack of his.

A cold smile surfaced on the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth as he eyed that rock wall which was not considered very thick. The Dou Qi in his body poured unceasingly into the ruler's body. Following the pouring of the Dou Qi, the temperature around it also grew increasingly hot. Finally it caused the surrounding air to become a little blurry.

At a certain moment, when Yun Leng was placing all his attention on the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' which had broken through the last defence, his expression suddenly changed. He abruptly turned around and eyed the huge ruler in Xiao Yan's hand which was emitting an intense red glow. His eyes suddenly shrank. The energy contained on the ruler had already far exceeded his estimation!

"First Elder Yun Leng, try this!"

In an icy cold manner, Xiao Yan watched Yun Leng, where panic had finally surfaced on his face. The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth parted while the heavy ruler in his hand was violently smashed downward like a setting sun!

"Flame Splitting Tsunami!"

In an instant, that rock wall was blasted apart!

Under the countless number of shocked gazes below, the red-colored huge ruler carried a hot fire wave and smashed ferociously toward Yun Leng's head!

At this moment, the entire square was completely quiet!

At this moment Nalan Yanran, who was in the square, had a face which was shocked and disbelief. She did not expect that Xiao Yan was actually able to display such a strong attack. From the looks of it, he had actually hidden his strength in the battle with her earlier?

Her red, sleek, small mouth was slightly open. A long while later, Nalan

Yanran finally lowered her head in a listless manner. She admitted that this strong attack of Xiao Yan was something that even she could not withstand!

“What a terrifying fellow.”

She softly mumbled as a bitter expression surfaced on her pretty face. That useless person back then had repeatedly displayed many miracles in front of her at this moment. These kinds of blows caused a sour, painful feeling to appear in Nalan Yanran's heart.

Chapter 349: Covering Sun Cloud Formation

A fiery red light that was like the setting sun suddenly appeared in the sky. In an instant, the fiery red glow had banished the sunlight from the square. The hot wave of fire caused everyone to feel like they were in a furnace.

Under the countless number of gazes, the fiery red light smashed into Yun Leng's head with a bang, when he was unable to react in time. A muffled thunder-like noise sounded throughout the sky.

“Bang!”

The fiery red light ferociously smashed into Yun Leng's head and an incomparably ferocious force instantly exploded. An intense pain began to spread out from Yun Leng's head at this moment, as though his head was about to be ripped apart.

“Ah!”

High in the sky, Yun Leng's hands grasped his head, where blood was flowing unceasingly. His mouth emitted a mournful wail. His body had also become like a bird which had lost its wings as he directly fell toward the ground.

His body fell swiftly. Just as he was around ten plus meters from the ground, Yun Leng flapped his wings and forcefully steadied his body. A gray white-colored powerful glow surged out of his body. In an instant, the strong glow carried a furious emotion and instantly suppressed that fiery red line by using a force that possessed pressure that one could not resist, forcefully dispelling it with this attack.

Would the counterattack that contained the fury of a Dou Wang be something ordinary?

The fiery red light slowly disappeared and the strong grey-white light that erupted from Yun Leng's body was swiftly withdrawn back into his body. The strong light disappeared and Yun Leng once again appeared in

everyone's sight. However, when all the gazes below saw Yun Leng's current appearance, the square instantly turned a deathly quiet. A long while passed and the sound of numerous people inhaling cold breaths appeared one after another.

In mid air, the wings on Yun Leng's back flapped in a sluggish manner. His chest rose and fell intensely. Fresh bright red blood seeped out from between his fingers and let out a dripping sound as it landed on the ground. It almost dyed his face with a blood red color.

Yun Leng's hand slowly left his head. Immediately, a deep cut that was over half an inch thick that spread from the left corner of his forehead till the side of his right ear was revealed. In the deep wound, one could shockingly see the dense white bone. This was a terrifying injury. Had Yun Leng reacted a little slower a moment ago, his head might have been cut off by this blow from Xiao Yan.

Originally, with Xiao Yan's strength, it was impossible to cause Yun Leng to have such a terrifying injury even if he had used a Di class Dou Technique. However, the latter had taken the opponent far too lightly. If he had been able place an energy film on his forehead earlier, this blow would at the very most cause him to suffer a slight injury. An injury like this where Yun Leng had nearly lost his life was definitely not going to appear.

Yun Leng's hand slowly trembled. His chest repeatedly rose and fell. He endured the intense pain and lifted his head. That old face of his currently appeared extremely savage. The pair of eyes stared at Xiao Yan in the sky perniciously. That manner indicated that he was anxious to cut the other party into tens of thousands of pieces.

"Good, good. What a 'good' fellow. This old me has underestimated you!"

Yun Leng clenched his teeth and laughed coldly. The intense pain that was transmitted from his head caused Yun Leng to feel a little giddy. However, compared with the intense pain, the fury of his spirit nearly caused Yun Leng to lose his sense of reasoning. In front of nearly one thousand Misty Cloud Sect disciples in the Misty Cloud Sect, he had

actually nearly lost this life of his to a young fellow that was not even twenty years old. He had really lost a large amount of face.

Yun Leng swiftly took out a few bottles of healing medicine from within his storage ring and applied all of them to his wounds. He sensed a cool feeling slowly spread around his wounds. Only then did Yun Leng feel that the pain was subsiding and had become a little soothing. With vicious eyes, he stared at Xiao Yan and inhaled a deep breath of air before speaking in a fierce manner, “Xiao Yan, you can forget about leaving the Misty Cloud Sect in one piece today!”

Xiao Yan indifferently glanced at Yun Leng whose head was filled with fresh blood. He felt a little pity in his heart. After displaying a Di class Dou Technique, he had only ended up causing Yun Leng to receive a slightly more serious injury. Originally, Xiao Yan had thought that he could directly use the ruler to finish off this old fellow.

“The Dou Technique which Xiao Yan used just now should be a Di class Dou Technique, no?” On the huge tree, Jia Xing Tian narrowed his eyes and stared at Yun Leng, whose face was covered with fresh blood. He then turned toward Xiao Yan as he softly muttered.

“Ah, he was able to hurt Yun Leng with just that Da Dou Shi’s strength of his. I think that the Dou Technique class would not be lower than the Di class.” Fa Ma smiled and nodded as he spoke in a surprised voice, “It is really unexpected that he was hiding it. In his fight with Nalan Yanran earlier, it was not very difficult for him to win even if he did not use any tricks.”

Jia Xing Tian let out a sigh. He frowned and said, “Where exactly did this fellow get so many things from? First, it was the ‘Heavenly Flame’, then it was a Dou Wang class pet. Now, it’s a Di class Dou Technique. Don’t tell me that there is some huge faction that we do not know of supporting him from behind?”

Fa Ma shook his head. Honestly speaking, he felt that it was overly strange for Xiao Yan to be able to take out these trump cards which shocked even them. At the very least, it was definitely impossible for the

alchemist association to take out any 'Heavenly Flames' or a Dou Wang class pet, given its strength.

"Don't tell me it's the Xiao clan?" Once these words left his mouth, Fa Ma mocked himself and shook his head. With the Xiao clan's ability, being able to take out a Xuan class Dou Technique was already something difficult. If they wanted to possess a Di class Dou Technique, it was undoubtedly nothing more than a fantasy.

The two exchanged glances and frowned while letting out a sigh. With their faction's information which they controlled, they actually did not have an information channel that could obtain the exact news of Xiao Yan's location during these three years. The Xiao clan's useless person appeared to have suddenly risen after Nalan Yanran went over to cancel the engagement. Was this due to the stimulation of Nalan Yanran's act of cancelling the engagement?

The two of them laughed bitterly. If this really were so, could Nalan Yanran be considered to have done something that she will regret forever?

The thick, ferocious force in the sky that was emitted from Yun Leng's body was immediately sensed by the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples below. They quickly faced each other and did not dare to create the slightest sound to avoid causing Yun Leng, who was ready to explode, to burst out in anger.

"This act of Xiao Yan is really ruthless." Hai Bodong, who was at the edge of the energy cover was also shocked by the turn of events in the square, causing him to turn his head over. When he saw the terrible looking Yun Leng who was beaten until his head was cut with blood flowing all over the place. He could not help but shake his head and quietly laugh.

"Old Hai, hurry up and break the barrier. It is best not to stay here for long." Xiao Yan raised his head, eyed the direction Hai Bodong was in and opened his mouth to hasten him.

"Give me three minutes!"

Hai Bodong nodded his head. He ceased saying anything nonsensical as

he turned his head and began to unleash violent devastation on the energy cover. However, that energy cover that was created in union by nearly a hundred Misty Cloud Sect's deacons was quite strong. Although the energy ripples were repeatedly emitted, it ultimately did not shatter.

"Hai Bodong, since you don't give us, the Misty Cloud Sect's face, this old me doesn't need to give you, who was once the Ice Emperor, any face!" Yun Leng's ferocious face eyed the energy cover which was repeatedly swaying as he cried out furiously.

Hai Bodong ignored Yun Leng's cry. He continued to unleash wild and powerful attacks on the energy cover. Now that things had already reached this stage, anything else would have to be discussed at a later date. He really did not believe that the Misty Cloud Sect had the boldness to really do anything to the Primer clan. After all, a mad, vengeful Dou Huang was sufficient to cause anyone to be terrified.

Xiao Yan clenched his fist tightly. The originally furious Yun Leng, however, suddenly became quiet. He lowered his head and with an icy cold tone, he loudly ordered all the nearly one thousand Misty Cloud Sect's disciple present, "All Misty Cloud Sect disciples listen up!"

"Form the 'Covering Sun Cloud Formation'!"

"This fellow actually even decided to use the Misty Cloud Sect's great formation. It looks like Xiao Yan has really caused him to become a little crazy." Gu He was startled upon hearing Yun Leng's cry. His brows were slightly knit as he shook his head and spoke softly.

As they heard the cold order that resounded throughout the square, countless of Misty Cloud Sect disciples were startled. They hesitated for a moment before responding with a united cry. Finally, they closed their eyes and threads of white-colored energy began to seep out of the heads of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples a moment later.

The unceasing amount of white-colored fog slowly rose into the air. Finally, it almost covered the entire sky. At a glance, it appeared that one was in a sea of clouds while that Yun Leng appeared to be at the middle of it all.

“All elders, support me!” Yun Leng once again let out a cold cry as he eyed the fog energy surrounding him. The bloodstains on his face had already formed into bloody scabs, appearing extremely terrifying.

Following Yun Leng’s cry, the ten plus white robed elders on the stone platform immediately stood up in an orderly manner. Their bodies leaped forward and swiftly spread apart. After which, they shot onto some of the tall trees that surrounded the square. The seals formed by their hands were identical. As their hand seals changed, the sea of clouds that was spread in the sky also began to fluctuate suddenly. In the center of the the sea of clouds, the cloud energy began to swiftly agglomerate. A moment later, it actually solidified into a white-colored energy spiraling sphere around ten feet wide in front of Yun Leng.

“Hah!:

Yun Leng slowly lifted his stone hand and controlled the white-colored spiraling sphere from a distance. A viciousness flashed across Yun Leng’s eyes. With a wave of his sleeves, that spiraling sphere, which had gathered energy from all the Misty Cloud Sect disciples, shot toward the sky where Xiao Yan was with an extremely terrifying speed.

The white-colored spiralling sphere had an extremely terrifying speed. At any space that it passed by, a long vacuum appeared. At that spot, even air was oppressed by the enormous energy until it turned into nothingness.

“Xiao Yan, be careful!” The moment the formation was formed, Hai Bodong sensed something. Therefore he hurriedly cried out when he saw that energy ball shooting toward Xiao Yan. The energy contained within that energy ball was likely impossible for Xiao Yan as a Da Dou Shi to withstand.

“It’s too late! With his speed, he cannot dodge it! Ha ha!” Yun Leng laughed wildly. He abruptly waved his hand and the spiralling ball flashed and arrived in front of Xiao Yan, whose face had changed drastically. It carried a terrifying force as it smashed forward violently.

Xiao Yan’s expression was ugly as he watched the enormous energy ball

that shot explosively toward him. Some panic finally began to appear in Xiao Yan's heart. This kind of energy appeared to have far exceeded the energy that an ordinary Dou Wang could unleash! However, its attack speed was also something that did not allow one to escape.

Xiao Yan's eyes stared intently at the energy ball which was moving increasingly closer. Xiao Yan was about to clench his teeth and risk his life to fight it when a seven-colored shadow abruptly flashed from the corner of his eyes. A huge shadow fell from the sky. The incomparably huge body of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' flashed downward. It waved its enormous tail and its body floated upward, securely protecting Xiao Yan within it.

"Bang!"

A deafening sound like that of a thunderstrike resounded throughout the sky. A snake's shrill hissing also rang out along with it.

Chapter 350: The Appearance of a Mysterious Dou Huang

Under a countless number of anxious gazes, the fallout of the energy began to slowly scatter, revealing the 'Seven-Colored Heaven Swallowing Python' that had been struck.

The current 'Heaven Swallowing Python' had quite a miserable appearance. Over half of its originally beautiful smooth seven-colored snake scales had burst apart under the terrifying attack earlier. Bright red fresh blood seeped out from the cracked snake scales and emitted a dripping sound as they began to fall like a light drizzle.

Its huge body moved slightly, releasing the unhurt Xiao Yan within it.

Xiao Yan lifted his head and eyed the glow in the snake's eyes which had become much weaker. The fresh blood that dripped onto his face appeared somewhat warm.

"Hiss!"

The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' flicked its tongue toward Xiao Yan. Its snake eyes held an extremely human-like concern. Currently, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' had already been promoted to a rank 5 Magical Beast and already possessed an intellect that was not inferior to that of humans. If it was not being suppressed by the spiritual strength of Queen Medusa, it was likely that it would already be able to speak the human language.

Ever since the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' was born, the first person which it had seen was Xiao Yan. After which, it had been living harmoniously with Xiao Yan. Although it was a beast, it had already formed a kinship-like feeling toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan clenched his teeth tightly. He eyed the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. Most of the scales on its body were cracked. A fury that had nearly washed away his reasoning had rose within him, especially after seeing the human-like concern in the eyes of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. However, it was fortunate that his reasoning suppressed his fury.

Xiao Yan glanced at Yun Leng below in a dark and cold manner. After which, he hurriedly took out bottle after bottle of healing medicine from his storage ring and smashed them against the 'Heaven Swallowing Python's' body.

When the bottles smashed on those scales, they suddenly broke apart. A warm healing liquid flowed over the wounds, helping to ease the 'Heaven Swallowing Python's' pain.

"What a lucky fellow. Last time this beast saved you, but what about this time?" Yun Leng coldly laughed as he eyed the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' which had suffered somewhat serious injury. He waved his hand and a huge energy spiralling sphere once again agglomerated within the sea of clouds. The energy on the surface of the sphere spilled out and a terrifying force shattered the surrounding air until nothing was left.

"Go to hell!"

A savage appearance surfaced on Yun Leng's face. His hands pushed forward suddenly and an enormous energy ball once again carried the sound of compressed wind, a whizzing sound that could be heard from the horizon, shot explosively toward Xiao Yan!

Xiao Yan stared intently at the energy ball which was expanding in his eyes. He tightly clenched his teeth and held the Heavy Xuan Ruler with all his might. The Dou Qi in his body was also circulated wildly!

"Hei, Yun Leng, with your status as the First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect, you actually used such a vicious attack against someone of the younger generation. You are actually this shameless?" As the energy ball was about to shoot toward Xiao Yan, Hai Bodong's cold laughter finally rang out.

"Ten Thousand Ice Flower Mirror!" As a cry rang out, a huge ice mirror that enveloped tens of feet of space suddenly expanded in front of Xiao Yan. Countless tiny small planes covered the surface of the mirror, Under the sunlight, it appeared like a mirror which was formed from sunlight.

"Bang!"

The energy ball heavily collided into the ice mirror. The incomparably large energy immediately scattered countless tiny planes. After the energy ball disappeared, the icy mirror had taken some damage, but it was maintained until the cloud energy that permeated the surroundings disappeared. Only then did a crack sound appear and the mirror was burst apart into slowly falling ice crystals that filled the sky.

“Hey, are you alright?” A human figure flashed and Hai Bodong appeared in front of Xiao Yan. The former had his back facing Xiao Yan as he asked.

“I’m fine.” Xiao Yan shook his head, held the ruler tightly and softly spoke.

“It is going to be troublesome this time around. It is really unexpected that this fellow has become so furious that he actually unleashed the ‘Covering Sun Cloud Formation’. This is the Misty Cloud Sect’s largest formation that is usually used in order to protect the sect. The price to activate it does not appear small. Many years ago, it helped the Misty Cloud Sect overcome an unknown number of difficulties.” Hai Bodong’s gaze slowly swept across the sea of clouds below. He smiled bitterly and said, “As long as there is still energy remaining within the Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples, then it will be equivalent to us fighting with nearly one thousand Misty Cloud Sect disciples. Even a Dou Huang cannot forcefully withstand its entire power.”

Xiao Yan frowned as he heard this before speaking in a deep and soft voice, “Then what do we do?”

Hai Bodong lifted his head and looked at the energy cover that enveloped the square. He said, “Unless we can break this thing... as long as it breaks, I should be able to bring you away from this place. However, I need to protect you now and cannot split my attention to do it.”

When he spoke up to this point, he then glanced at the enormous ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ behind Xiao Yan and said, “That energy wall is created by over a hundred Misty Cloud Sect deacons. With its Dou Wang class strength, it will likely take a long while in order to break it. Yet, the thing that we lack the most of now is time.”

“The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ and I will go and try. Old Hai, help us defend against those fellows’ attacks!” Xiao Yan mused for a moment, made a prompt decision before he replied. Currently, they did not have any extra time for them to expend.

“Ah. we can only do it this way. That ‘Covering Sun Cloud Formation’ of Yun Leng can only be withstood by a strong person of the Dou Huang class. It is fortunate that Yun Yun is absent. Otherwise, if she used her Dou Huang strength to take charge of this large formation, even a strong person of the Dou Zong class will fear her.” Although he knew that there was quite a great amount of difficulty for Xiao Yan to break the energy barrier given the latter’s strength, Hai Bodong did not have any other solution after having reached this situation. If they did not shatter the energy cover, they would only be forced to fight head on with nearly one thousand Misty Cloud Sect disciples.

It was not a difficult thing for a strong person of the Dou Huang class to fight one thousand people by himself. Unfortunately, with the agglomeration of the ‘Covering Sun Cloud Formation’ and their cohesion which had been groomed for over a decade or even a few decades, the strength of these nearly one thousand Misty Cloud Sect disciples appeared to be superimposed on Yun Leng who was in the middle of the formation. In the face of this kind of special fighting method, even Hai Bodong could only find shelter to avoid it.

“Hai Bodong, since you are unrepentant, don’t blame old me for not taking into account our old friendship!” Yun Leng coldly watched Hai Bodong in the sky. He was far from being vague. Once again, a cloud ball was summoned from the sea of clouds. This time around, the ball’s size appeared to be double that of the previous ones.

A seriousness appeared on Hai Bodong’s face as he eyed the large energy ball which was at least forty to fifty feet in size. A cold air shrouded his hands and countless number of tiny ice crystals slowly appeared in the air around him.

“Ah, it looks like the issue has become quite big.” As he eyed the two parties which were about to begin a truly large fight, Jia Xing Tian sighed

and shook his head, “For just a mere Mo Cheng, they are willing to fight with a Dou Huang and someone with a terrifying potential, who will become a strong person in the future, to such an extent. Is it worthwhile?”

“It is not because of Mo Cheng. He, as an external deacon does not have such a great ability.” Fa Ma shook his head and laughed bitterly, “The Misty Cloud Sect wants reputation. However, the trouble caused over this matter is indeed a little overboard. That earlier attack of Xiao Yan caused Yun Leng to lose a great amount of face. Therefore, he activated the large formation to defend the sect. If we were to talk about it, he has selfish motives.”

“Ah.” Jia Xing Tian let out a sigh and bitterly laughed. With things having progressed to this extent, it was impossible for the matter to be peacefully resolved regardless of who stepped forward to be the mediator.

“Bang!”

The heavy ruler carried a ferocious force as it violently smashed against the energy cover. However, it only resulted in a tiny little ripple. Other than this, it did not have even the slightest effect.

Xiao Yan’s expression was dark and solemn as he eyed that firm and unshakable energy barrier. He turned his head and eyed the attack by the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’. The waves of ripples that spread out had some momentum. However, there was still a huge gap between it and destroying the energy barrier.

“Bastard!” Xiao Yan turned around and watched the sharp force that was emitted from the battle between Hai Bodong and Yun Leng while softly and viciously scolded.

“I don’t believe that I cannot break this crappy thing of yours!” Xiao Yan breathing gradually became more intense. His eyes became red. As he tightly held the heavy ruler, Dou Qi surged wildly. He let out a loud cry as he violently smashed it into the incomparably strong energy cover.

“Bang!”

Following the swing of Xiao Yan’s heavy ruler, an extremely loud sound

suddenly appeared in the square. Countless people lifted their heads and watched as crack lines instantly spread out on the energy cover while having completely stunned faces. After their shock persisted for an instant, they immediately turned toward the similarly stunned Xiao Yan who was holding the black ruler. This energy cover which even a Dou Wang would need a long period of time in order to break was actually broken by a random swing of a his ruler?

“Impossible!” Within the sea of clouds, Yun Leng was also stunned as he eyed the energy barrier that was covered with crack lines. Immediately, he cried out in a flustered and exasperated manner.

“Ha ha, it is really unexpected that the Misty Cloud Sect whose name shakes the entire Jia Ma Empire is actually this shameless. The sect’s nearly one thousand members have actually joined hands to deal with a young man who is not even twenty. You really disgraced the face that Yun Bo Tian had fought to gain for the Misty Cloud Sect on the continent back then!” Just as everyone in the entire square was dull, a somewhat hoarse laughter suddenly sounded from the sky.

“Who are you? You actually dare to insult a predecessor of our Misty Cloud Sect. A person who only knows how to hide around. If you have the ability, appear in front of the old me!” Yun Leng’s face changed as he lifted his head and cried out sternly.

“Ha ha. If you want me to reveal myself, I will reveal myself. Other people may be afraid of your Misty Cloud Sect, but I am not the least bit afraid!” A loud laugh once again sounded. As the laughter fell, the energy barrier which was already about to collapse finally turned into shattered energy pieces that permeated the air after a ‘bang’, before slowly disappearing.

“Grug!”

With the shattering of the energy barrier, the faces of the nearly one hundred Misty Cloud Sect’s deacons on the surrounding trees became abruptly pale. Immediately, mouthfuls of fresh blood were wildly spat out.

Yun Leng ignored those deacons who vomited blood. He lifted his head

and his eyes were locked intently on an empty space. At a certain moment, the air at that spot suddenly began to ripple. A black shadow slowly appeared after a while. A mere instant later, a human figure who was wearing a black robe appeared in front of everyone's eyes out of nowhere.

As the black figure appeared, the expressions of Hai Bodong, Jia Xing Tian, Fa Ma, Yun Leng and the others on the square, suddenly changed drastically.

"It is another strong Dou Huang?" Jia Xing Tian slowly inhaled a breath of cool air. His voice contained a shock that could not be concealed.

"It looks like he is Xiao Yan's reinforcement. There is indeed an extremely large strength behind this fellow." Fa Ma's expression was unusually grave as he mumbled, "This time around, the Misty Cloud Sect is really quite unlucky."

Chapter 351: Dou Huang, Ling Ying

With the appearance of the black-robed person, the entire square descended into a complete silence. Although some of the ordinary Misty Cloud Sect disciples were unclear of the strength of this mysterious black-robed person, they could tell from those elders whose faces had suddenly turned extremely grave that this mysterious black-robed person should be strong to the point of being a little terrifying. Otherwise, he would not cause them to be so shocked.

“Who are you?”

Yun Leng’s eyes stared intently at the black-robed person in the sky. The other party’s body, which was overflowing with threads of strong Qi, caused the tip of Yun Leng’s finger to involuntarily tremble a little as he demanded with a brave front.

“You may call me Ling Ying.” The black-robed person slowly lowered his head and revealed a dark old face while he smiled and replied.

“You are not a citizen of the Jia Ma Empire!” Yun Leng’s gaze carefully inspected the body of the black-robed person who called himself Ling Ying. Immediately, he appeared to have discovered something and let out a cry in surprise.

“I am naturally not someone from the Jia Ma Empire. However, who set the rule that no one other than a citizen of the Jia Ma Empire can enter this country?” The black-robed person who called himself Ling Ying laughed.

Yun Leng frowned tightly and inhaled a deep breath of air. He suppressed the panic in his heart, cupped his hands together and said in a deep voice to Ling Ying in the sky, “This friend. The Jia Ma Empire does not prevent anyone from entering this country. However, the matter today is an internal matter of the Misty Cloud Sect. Please do not carelessly interfere. After this matter is over, our Misty Cloud Sect will treat you as a VIP guest. Although our Misty Cloud Sect has not stepped outside of the empire for a long time, we will gladly welcome the strong people of the

continent who have come to visit the Jia Ma Empire.”

“Ha ha, you really have a way with words.” Ling Ying laughed, but he shook his head. He turned around and his eyes drifted toward Hai Bodong and Xiao Yan who had moved together and sighed, “Unfortunately, the old me is under the orders of someone. Today, I must bring this little fellow called Xiao Yan away without him losing even a strand of hair.”

Hearing this, Yun Leng’s expression gradually grew dark and solemn. The corner of his mouth twitched and a haunted look flashed across his eyes.

“Friend, even though I don’t know exactly who you are, it is not a wise action to offend our Misty Cloud Sect in this manner.” Yun Leng softly and gravely said.

“Ha ha, is the Misty Cloud Sect that great? Although its words do have some weight within the Jia Ma Empire, it is but a second rate faction if it is compared to the others of the Dou Qi continent. Do you have any right to talk to me in this manner? These few years, you have not gone and understood the outside world. It is really unexpected that the Misty Cloud Sect has groomed such frogs in the well. Ha ha, the reputation that Yun Bo Tian had used all his effort in order to create back then will likely be destroyed by your hands.” Ling Ying laughed loudly. His laughter contained a ridicule that caused Yun Leng’s face to turn green. However, due to the other party being strong and possessing an unknown background, Yun Leng did not dare to directly attack him.

“So it is a strong person that has come from the continent.” Jia Xing Tian narrowed his eyes and watched Ling Ying in the sky, “Although the Imperial Family has also sent out a large number of people throughout the continent, I don’t have the slightest impression of this person called Ling Ying. I think he should be someone who was training in seclusion. However, how did Xiao Yan come to be related to this kind of strong person from the continent? With his strength, he does not have the right to come into contact with someone of this level.”

TL: Not the Dou Qi Continent

Fa Ma laughed bitterly and shook his head. The events currently happening were becoming increasingly messy. Xiao Yan's background was also becoming more and more mysterious.

"Ah, from the looks of things, if one counted Hai Bodong and this Ling Ying, Xiao Yan's side actually has two Dou Huangs. If we add that mysterious Magical Beast, the Misty Cloud Sect does not seem to be able to keep Xiao Yan behind in the face of this line-up before Yun Yun returns." Jia Xing Tian slowly fondled his short beard and said.

"With the situation developing to this point, Yun Leng should carefully weigh his gains and losses. Offending Xiao Yan who possesses such a line-up for just Mo Cheng is simply losing more than he will gain." Fa Ma said softly.

"Now, we can only see what Yun Leng plans to do. If he could put aside the embarrassment that Xiao Yan gave him and let the other side leave safely, nothing much will happen. If he does not let them leave and insists on keeping Xiao Yan behind, a large battle is inevitable!"

Jia Xing Tian nodded slightly. He raised his head to watch the livid face of Yun Leng as the latter clenched his fist tightly. He muttered, "Hopefully he will not be too stubborn in his choice."

Everyone in the square lifted their heads and watched the sky. The back of Nalan Yanran's teeth bit her red lips. Her emotions were as complex as a bottle of five flavors which had been overturned. She had never expect that the matter today would actually cause two Dou Huangs to appear. Moreover, these two were strong people who did not appear to be weaker than her teacher. Yet, all of them were focused on Xiao Yan and put in all of their effort to ensure he could leave safely.

A bitterness appeared in the corner of Nalan Yanran's mouth. The useless person of the Xiao clan back then had currently nearly turned the entire Misty Cloud Sect upside down. All of this was because of the act to cancel the engagement back then. Perhaps, it was due to her provocation that really caused this originally useless young master of the Xiao Yan to completely transform.

“If back then, had I not...” Nalan Yanran mumbled softly. Suddenly she woke up abruptly. Her hands were clenched. The faint regret that had unknowingly appeared in her heart caused her to be a little appalled. Her hand held her chest as she deeply inhaled a breath of cool air.

Compared to Nalan Yanran’s bitterness, Nalan Jie on the huge tree also sighed dejectedly. As more and more strong people appeared to support Xiao Yan, he also gradually felt the terrifying strength that this young man of seventeen had hidden behind his back. Originally, this young man, who might soon become the strongest person in the Jia Ma Empire, would have become a member of the Nalan clan and lead this clan toward becoming unprecedentedly powerful and prosperous. However, the impulsive act of Nalan Yanran back then has completely shattered this hope.

At such a moment, Nalan Jie finally felt what is called true regret. However, besides feeling regret, some shame also rose within his heart. If he had stood up and helped Xiao Yan say a few words when Yun Leng had attacked Xiao Yan earlier, that would have been also something good. Moreover, even after clearly knowing that Xiao Yan was Yan Xiao who had saved his life back then, he had not stepped forward. It appeared that there was a certain latent thought in him that did not wish for Xiao Yan, who possessed some enmity toward the Nalan clan, to successfully leave the Misty Cloud Sect.

As he thought of this possibility, Nalan Jie’s forehead was instantly covered with cold sweat. His limbs were also entirely icy. What was the difference between this act of his and being ungrateful? To think that he had actually made the promise back then that Xiao Yan could find him when faced with any problem.

Nalan Jie’s heart was filled with shame. He did not cause Xiao Yan to throw his gaze over. The gaze of the latter was currently completely focused on the body of Ling Ying who had appeared.

Hao Bodong eyed Ling Ying who had appeared. His brows were knit abruptly. A long while later, he let out a soft sigh and said in a deep voice, “It’s him!”

“Who? Old Hai, do you know him?” Hearing this, Xiao Yan was surprised. He immediately asked hurriedly. This Dou Huang class helper who had just appeared had also caused him to be totally puzzled. He could not recall when he had come to know this person.

“Back at the capital, did you not sense that there was someone spying on us? I told you back then that I also had a similar feeling. However, that feeling was far too vague so I did not dare be too certain. Only until this person appeared a moment ago could I be certain. The Qi on his body is completely the same as the person who was watching us.” Hai Bodong said in a deep voice.

Xiao Yan frowned. He softly said, “Why does he wants to spy on us?”

“How would I know?” Hai Bodong waved his head. He aimed his gaze at Xiao Yan and said, “From the way he acted, it is clear that he is here because of you. You should ask yourself when did you come to befriend such a strong person?”

“I am also totally at a loss. I can be certain that this is the first time that I have seen this person. As for why he wants to help me, this is also something that I am ignorant of.” Xiao Yan laughed bitterly.

“Hei, that is strange. Don’t tell me that there really are stupid people in this world who would stop and help just because they witness an injustice?” Hai Bodong raised his brows and said as he gave a faint smile which did not appear like one.

“Alright, let’s not worry about his identity. Now that the energy barrier is broken, let’s leave.” Xiao Yan shook his head, appearing not to have heard the ridicule in Hai Bodong’s words as he hurriedly said.

Hai Bodong nodded and the wings behind both of their backs started to flap. As they faced Yun Leng, they slowly started to back away.

The two of them had just began moving when Yun Leng sensed them. His gaze turned and he glanced at Xiao Yan in a dark and cold manner. An intense pain was transmitted from his head, causing a ferocity to involuntarily surface on his face. As his palm quivered, a bright red color sudden appeared in his eyes. He said sternly, “Xiao Yan, where are you

going? If I cannot hold you here today, how will I, Yun Leng, help the sect leader manage this large sect?”

“Go!” Xiao Yan ignored Yun Leng’s ferocious cry. His expression did not change as his body continued to pull away.

“Bastard! Halt!”

Yun Leng’s face gradually became blood red. In his fury, his hands waved abruptly and the sea of clouds around him rolled and surged. A moment later, a huge cloud bow around ten feet long was actually agglomerated from within the sea of clouds. He waved his hand and the bow was automatically drawn back. On the body of the bow, cloud-colored energy swiftly gathered. An instant later, it turned into an enormous cloud arrow that was around two to three meters in length.

“Die!” Yun Leng stared at Xiao Yan viciously. Some cold sweat slowly surfaced on Yun Leng’s forehead. It appeared that the summoning of the cloud bow and arrow consumed a very large amount of energy, to the point that even with his Dou Wang class strength, he was lacking a little to support it.

“Go!” With a low cry from Yun Leng’s mouth, the cloud arrow suddenly burst forth. In an instant, it was like an arrow to shoot down the sun, passing through the obstruction of the air and shot directly toward Xiao Yan.

“Be careful!” As the front side of the two of them were facing Yun Leng, Hai Bodong was first to discover when the latter made an action. He let out a loud cry and pulled Xiao Yan behind him. Both of his hands were waved swiftly and the cold air surged.

“Bring Xiao Yan and leave. I will stop him!” Just as Hai Bodong was about to contend with that arrow, a black shadow suddenly surfaced in front of him. The shadow turned his head and spoke with a smile.

Hai Bodong was slightly startled. He narrowed his eyes and weighed Ling Ying. He did not say anything as he pulled Xiao Yan and quickly retreated. However, just as he was retreating, the cautious him was not only taking precautions against Yun Leng attack, but remained vigilant toward Ling

Ying. With Hai Bodong's experience, he was naturally unable to swiftly trust this fellow who had suddenly appeared.

After seeing Hai Bodong pull back, Ling Ying slowly turned his body around. He indifferently eyed the terrifying arrow which appeared to be splitting the sky as it flew over. With a gentle wave of his sleeves, black-colored shadows suddenly burst out from behind his back. In an instant, the soaring black shadows appeared to have covered the entire sky. This huge amount of force immediately cause some of the faces of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples below to turn pale.

With his body suspended in the middle of the black shadow that permeated the sky, the black-robed elder was like a demon that had come into this world. He unleashed a wild laughter. Within it, there was an insolence that was difficult to hide.

“Ha ha, today, I want to see just who dares to hurt the person whom the young lady of my clan wants me to protect!”

Chapter 352: The Misty Cloud Sect's Trump Card

The black shadows covered the sun in the vast and mighty sky. Even the sunlight which was pouring down actually had difficulty penetrating through it. Currently, the open ground had already descended into complete darkness. Everyone could only use their Dou Qi to cover their bodies in order to use the weak glow to observe the fight in the air.

The moment the darkness covered the sky, the huge cloud arrow which was shooting through the air also came to a sudden stop. The terrifying force contained within the tip of the arrow also caused circular wave-like ripples to appear in the surrounding air. The sharp sound of explosions could be heard repeatedly.

“Ten Thousand Binding Shadows!”

Ling Ying's body appeared to have completely merged with the black-colored darkness that had permeated the entire sky. The seal formed by his hands was abruptly formed and the black curtain that permeated the sky suddenly moved. Black-colored darkness spat out from it in all directions. They intertwined with one another and pounced on the cloud arrow which had been shot explosively over.

With one white and one black, the two completely different colored lights, carrying similarly terrifying energies cut through the vast sky. Under the watch of a countless number of gazes below, they collided. All of a sudden, a furious blast, like that of thunder, appeared in the air. An enormous energy force surged out turbulently from the point where the two had met an instant later. The terrifying force actually managed to disperse most of the black curtain that permeated the sky. Sunlight shone in from the gaps of the black curtain and lit the square in a scattered pattern.

“This person's strength is really not weak.” Jia Xing Tian raised his head to watch the black-robed person who appeared and disappeared in the black curtain. His face was grave as he said, “Seeing the manner of his

attack earlier, his strength should at least be around that of a seven star Dou Huang.”

“He is indeed very strong. Moreover, the elemental affinity of his Qi Method appeared to tend towards darkness. That kind of element is not commonly seen.” Fa Ma nodded his head. His gaze glanced around and suddenly said, “If this trouble continues in this manner, do we need to act? Regardless of how one puts it, the Misty Cloud Sect is a faction within our Jia Ma Empire.”

Jia Xing Tian furrowed his brows as he mused for a while before saying, “Let’s wait and see first. This mysterious Dou Huang does not appear to have the intention of creating havoc in the Misty Cloud Sect. As long as Xiao Yan can safely leave, I think that he will not stay for long. Moreover, we are currently uncertain if there is some huge faction behind him. Therefore, it is better to not act rashly.”

Fa Ma nodded slightly as he heard Jia Xing Tian’s words. He did not continue speaking.

“Ha ha, it seems that you actually have some ability, no wonder you are so arrogant.” Ling Ying slowly surfaced from the black curtain in the sky. He eyed Yun Leng below, whose face was a little pale, as he laughed out loud.

Yun Leng clenched his teeth. His gaze passed through the cracks in the black curtain and saw Xiao Yan, who was about to leave the square. The corner of his mouth twitched. An intense pain was transmitted from his head, causing the fury in his heart to repeatedly erode his reasoning.

“Stay behind!”

With a soft but furious roar, a flush once again surged up on Yun Leng’s pale face. A surge of Dou Qi slowly overflowed from within his body, shaking the sea of clouds that permeated the air around him until it was in turmoil.

“Humph. stubborn fellow. Don’t think that the old me does not dare to kill you!” Ling Ying eyed Yun Leng who actually still refused to give up and a darkness gradually appeared on his face. He slowly extended his hand

out of his sleeves. A dark, black energy fog swiftly gathered above his palm. In an instant, it agglomerated into a long black-colored lance that was over two meters long. The surface of the long lance was covered with densely placed black-colored lines. The energy was like that of water waves, flowing repeatedly. Black air surged upwards, causing the lance to have an even more ghastly aura against the dark background.

As Ling Ying's hand grasped the long black-colored lance, he glanced at Yun Leng below and skimmed his lips. He abruptly tightened his grip and took half a step back with his right leg, causing his body to twist slightly. His right hand held the long lance while his body stilled for a moment. Immediately, it suddenly began to turn and the long lance in his hand carried a sinister aura as it shot toward Yun Leng in the sea of clouds below.

“Devil's Snake Bite!”

The long black-colored lance was like a black falling star that cut across the sky. The black aura which shrouded the lance actually faintly agglomerated into the shape of a huge black-colored serpent. As the large serpent hissed through the sky, the air began to vibrate.

Sensing the terrifying force which was shot explosively from the sky, Yun Leng's face suddenly changed drastically. He could sense that this time around, the other party really did not have any intentions of holding back.

A horror rose within Yun Leng's heart. His hands hurriedly moved and the surrounding sea of clouds immediately began to fluctuate. Waves of cloud energy rose and continued to gather above his head. In a mere blink of an eye, it was constructed into a cloud-colored shield that was around three meters wide. Light flickered on the surface of the shield, causing it to appear substance-like and extremely hard.

After the cloud-colored shield appeared, the surrounding sea of clouds also became much thinner. Clearly, this cloud shield required quite a large amount of energy to create.

The large, black-colored lance covered in a sinister aura did not show

any signs of stopping because of the appearance of the cloud shield. It continued to carry a ferocious force as it charged ahead. Under the alarmed gazes of everyone, it violently crashed onto the cloud shield. Immediately, a ground-shaking, deafening noise exploded forth, causing the Misty Cloud Sect disciples below to involuntarily cover their ears.

The black-colored light and the cloud-colored glow began to mingle with one another in the sky. At the spot where the two collided, a space actually began to have a somewhat distorted feeling to it. This attack by Ling Ying was actually this strong. He was undoubtedly a strong person of the Dou Huang class.

“Humph, break it!” Ling Ying watched the two-colored energies clashing below. His hands slowly formed a seal and a moment later, a soft roar was suddenly emitted from his throat.

As Ling Ying’s roar fell, the black glow on the dark, black, long lance soared. A huge black-colored energy serpent, that was around seventy feet long, lifted its body from the shaft of the lance. Its huge mouth carried a bloody and ghastly aura, which became wider and wider. After which, it actually swallowed the cloud-colored shield in one go under Yun Leng’s stunned gaze.

Although the black-colored lance had become much weaker after swallowing the cloud shield, it undoubtedly gave Yun Leng, who had lost his greatest defense, an extreme fear.

However, the long black-colored lance did not even pause for a slight moment because of his fear. It pointed downward and violently shot toward Yun Leng’s heart.

The sharp tip of the lance continued to grow larger in Yun Leng’s pupils. At the last moment, he could only clench his teeth. Dou Qi covered his hands and he used all his strength to tightly grab the long lance with both hands. At the same time, his body swiftly twisted.

“Glug!”

When his hands came into contact with the long, black-colored lance, the terrifying force contained within it caused Yun Leng to violently spit

out a mouthful of fresh blood. His body was also shaken by that enormous energy until it fell toward the ground.

The moment Yun Leng left the sea of clouds, the sea of clouds that permeated the sky gradually began to become thinner. Finally, it actually completely turned into nothingness.

Following the disappearance of the sea of clouds, the faces of all the elders on the four corners of the square became pale. Their hands grasped their chests and a muffled groan that contained pain was emitted from their throats,

Compared with the expressions of all the Elders, those Misty Cloud Sect's disciples on the square who had added their strength to the sea of clouds appeared to be in a little more miserable position. Quite a number of disciples, whose strengths were not as strong, spat out mouthfuls of blood on the spot. Immediately, their faces paled and they fainted. Those who were a little stronger forcefully endured. However, their sluggish expression allowed others to know that there were severe implications when the sea of clouds was forcefully broken.

One attack from Ling Ying appeared to have caused the entire Misty Cloud Sect to descend into a crippled state. A Dou Huang was actually strong and terrifying to such an extent!

“Bang!”

In the sky, the huge force that was contained in the long, black-colored lance directly and violently threw Yun Leng into the ground. After which it smashed heavily into the square. Immediately, rocks flew and numerous large crack lines began to spread from the spot where Yun Leng had landed, as though an earthquake occurred. These crack lines were very large, causing those Misty Cloud Sect disciples to have little choice but to get up to avoid them. From this, it could be seen just how terrifying this attack was.

Ling Ying stood in the sky and eyed the open ground which was in complete chaos. He waved his hand and the dark shadows which permeated the sky once again flowed back into his body. Following the

shrinking of the black shadow curtain, the warm sunlight once again poured down. A faint warm feeling caused those icy cold bodies of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples to sigh in relief.

After they sighed in relief, all the gazes in the square were hurriedly thrown onto the spot where Yun Leng had landed. A deep pit which had been formed there caused those Misty Cloud Sect disciples to involuntarily swallow their saliva.

“He hasn’t died.” Jia Xing Tian eyed the dark deep pit and sighed softly. The current situation had really developed to the point where it was difficult for anyone to control.

As Jia Xing Tian’s voice fell, an intense cough was emitted from within that dark deep pit. A human figure slowly climbed up from within it. Which part of his dire appearance had even a little of the imposing manner of the First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect?

Currently, Yun Leng’s clothes were destroyed and his face was bloodstained. Moreover, fresh blood was repeatedly flowing out from a wound on his waist, almost soaking the ground. Clearly, he may have forcefully caught the black-colored lance earlier and avoided being struck in a fatal spot, but he was still hurt by the sharp force contained within it.

As they eyed the First Elder who was in such a dire state that he was similar to a dog which had lost his hope, all the Misty Cloud Sect members softly sighed.

The expression of Yun Leng who had climbed out of the deep pit unexpectedly did not have the slightest fury. Instead, he was calm like still water. He coldly glanced at the fresh blood dripping from his waist, then used his hand to softly touched the savage scar which Xiao Yan had left behind. He suddenly began to laugh softly. In his laughter, there was a craziness that was difficult to hide.

“You are indeed very strong.” Yun Leng lifted his head and laughed thickly at Ling Ying.

Ling Ying frowned slightly. His hand slowly moved and black air shrouded him. His voice was indifferent. “You are indeed not easy to kill. If

you are tired of living, this old man can help you.”

“Ha ha.” Yun Leng suddenly laughed out loud as he stared at Ling Ying. His laughter affected his injuries, causing him to once again cough out a few mouthfuls of fresh blood. He wiped off the bloodstain from the corner of his mouth and suddenly lifted his head. His eyes were as savage as a wild beast.

“I don’t care who you are, but you are the first person in so many years that has caused our Misty Cloud Sect to be this embarrassed. If all of you are allowed to leave today, I’m afraid that our Misty Cloud Sect will no longer have any reputation to speak of within the Jia Ma Empire. Therefore, for the sake of the sect, today, all of you can forget! About! Leaving!”

“You don’t have the ability to do so.” Ling Ying mocked.

“Indeed, I do not have this ability, but...” Yun Leng laughed in a dark voice. Under everyone’s gaze, he suddenly took out a white cloud-colored whistle from within his storage ring. He placed it by the side of his mouth and blew it hard. Immediately, a strange sharp sound was suddenly transmitted from the whistle.

The sharp whistle shrouded the entire Misty Cloud Mountain and did not disappear for a long time.

Everyone on the square became quiet due to Yun Leng’s action. For a while, one could only hear the whistle repeatedly resounding within the entire mountain.

Jia Xing Tian narrowed his eyes. He exchanged glances with Fa Ma and suddenly appeared to have recalled something. His eyes contracted suddenly!

“It is that old fellow! He has indeed not died!”

As Jia Xing Tian’s and Fa Ma’s voice fell, a mighty and majestic force from deep within the Misty Cloud Mountain descended. It was like an ancient huge dragon had just awoken while carrying an incomparable pressure!

The moment that this majestic force emanated out, a white-colored ray of light around a few hundred kilometers from the Misty Cloud Sect suddenly stopped. A beautiful figure appeared in mid air. Currently, she was staring in the direction of the distant Misty Cloud Sect. Her indifferent and otherworldly pretty face was now covered with shock.

“Why has teacher awoken?”

Chapter 353: The Previous Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, Dou Zong Yun Shan

The majestic force, that was like a huge dragon being awoken, instantly covered the entire Misty Cloud Mountain. An enormous pressure that Xiao Yan had never felt before spread out from deep within the Misty Cloud Mountain. Finally, it permeated the entire square. At that moment, all the Misty Cloud Sect disciples could not resist the reverence they felt in their hearts and knelt down toward the spot where the force was spreading from. Although Yun Leng and some of the other Misty Cloud Sect's Elders did not kneel down in respect, they still respectfully bowed.

"This presence." Nalan Yanran's pretty eyes stared in the direction of the deep regions of the Misty Cloud Sect. A shock also surfaced on her pretty face. She did not expect that today's matter would actually disturb this grand teacher who has been in seclusion for so long.

"This is bad. That old fellow really has not died!" The moment the Qi was released, Hai Bodong's expression suddenly changed. His soft voice contained a shock that could not be hidden.

"Is it the former Misty Cloud Sect Leader, Yun Shan?" Xiao Yan expression had also become much gloomier at this moment. He recalled what Hai Bodong said earlier and asked with furrowed brows.

"Yes." Hai Bodong nodded his head. In a soft voice, he said, "Seeing this presence, he has really broken the barrier of a Dou Huang and advanced to the Dou Zong class."

"A strong Dou Zong, huh." Xiao Yan's hands gently trembled a little. The strongest person that he had seen in his lifetime was Queen Medusa and Jia Xing Tian. Although a Dou Huang and a Dou Zong were merely a one class difference, the gap between them was like that of the heavens and earth. Earlier, Hai Bodong was able to use his strength to swiftly attack the three Dou Wangs. As for a strong person of the Dou Zong class, it would similarly not be too difficult to take on three Dou Huangs.

“Dammit it. It is always this troublesome.” Xiao Yan pursed his lips. His heart had become a little impatient because of these events that were occurring one after another. Each time he thought that he could leave, there would always be something unexpected that happened.

“Old Hai, since Yun Shan has really appeared, then I am afraid that you are going to step aside, no?” Xiao Yan suddenly remembered Hai Bodong’s words and softly sighed.

Hearing this, Hai Bodong was at a loss. His expression was volatile. A long while later, he suddenly clenched his teeth and said, “Although a person like me does not like to get involved in things that have nothing to do with me; I must see something, that I have already begun doing, until the end. Even if Yun Shan really wants to stop us today, I will try my best to bring you away from Misty Cloud Mountain!”

Xiao Yan was startled as he turned to look at Hai Bodong, who was clenching his teeth. A warmth immediately appeared in his heart. Part of the reason Hai Bodong chose not to give up at this moment may be due to the ‘Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill’, but no matter how one put it, his willingness to help Xiao Yan escape in the face of offending the Misty Cloud Sect suggested a friendship that far exceeded Xiao Yan’s expectations. At the very least, he was far better than some people.

“Thank you very much, Old Hai. I, Xiao Yan, will remember your help today deeply in my heart. I will definitely return the favor in the future.” Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath and cupped his hands toward Hai Bodong. His delicate and handsome face was extremely serious.

“We will talk about the matters of the future another time. Now, we need to shake off that old fellow in front of us. The moment Yun Shan woke up, this entire Misty Cloud Mountain was covered by his aura. Currently, even if we wanted to leave, it will not be easy.” Hai Bodong smiled bitterly and shook his head. The corner of his eyes glanced at the enormous ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ that was suspended behind Xiao Yan. He then glanced at Ling Ying a short distance away. In his heart, he was repeatedly calculating the fighting strength of both parties.

As the two of them were conversing softly, the majestic force from deep within the Misty Cloud Mountain had become increasingly dense. Finally, a clear howl suddenly rushed toward the sky. Under a countless number of gazes, a white figure suddenly appeared from deep within the Misty Cloud Sect. Immediately, his feet stepped in the sky and slowly moved toward the square of the Misty Cloud Sect.

The white figure did not summon Dou Qi wings, but the speed at which he was walking through the empty air was not any slower than Hai Bodong and the others. Each time his footstep landed, a circular ripple would be formed in the empty space. The ripple then disappeared and the human figure suddenly appeared over a hundred meters away in an extremely mysterious manner.

By taking a few strides in this manner, the human figure flashed and appeared on top of the stone monument in the middle of the square in merely a few moments. His indifferent gaze swept across the ground that was in a mess and his brows furrowed slightly. The pressure that covered the entire ground had also become much more dense at this moment.

Xiao Yan was suspended in the air as he swept his gaze toward the white figure that had appeared. He carefully looked up and down as he weighed this previous sect leader of the Misty Cloud Sect.

The white figure was wearing an extremely plain, white-colored long robe. The gentle breeze brushed by and his long robes fluttered, giving him a kind of otherworldly and elegant aura. His age did not appear very old and his face did not have the wrinkles that an old man ought to have. Instead, it was like warm jade that was emitting a glow. If it were not for his long hair being snow white, Xiao Yan would really have difficulty thinking of him as a strong person of the same generation as Hai Bodong. However, from the reverence that had appeared on all the faces of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples below, it was clear that this person was the previous Misty Cloud Sect Leader, Yun Shan.

“Hei, after this old fellow broke through to the Dou Zong class, he actually became a little younger. Looks like the benefits of breaking through that barrier are indeed not small.” As Hai Bodong studied Yun

Shan's exterior appearance, he could not resist smacking his lips. The envy in his soft voice was not concealed.

"Yun Leng, give me an explanation. You should know that I have said not to disturb me in my quiet training unless there is some big matter." Yun Shan gaze turned toward Yun Leng below as spoke blandly.

"Old Sect Leader, you have finally come out. If you were a little later, I'm afraid that the Misty Cloud Sect would be destroyed by other people!" As Yun Shan gaze swept over, Yun Leng's legs immediately softened. His knees involuntarily knelt down. The bloodstain on his face gave him an extremely miserable look.

"Where is Yun Yun?" Yun Shan frowned slightly and asked.

"Sect Leader has gone out, and has yet to return." Yun Leng hurriedly replied.

"Give me a short summary of what has happened. In so many years, this is the first time that the Misty Cloud Sect has been damaged by another to such an extent." Yun Shan's hands were inserted into his sleeves as he calmly said.

Hearing this, Yun Leng braced up his spirit. He pointed at Xiao Yan in the sky with his hand and loudly said, "Old Sect leader, what has happened today is entirely caused by him!"

As he spoke, Yun Leng hurriedly told him of the suspicion Xiao Yan had with regards to Mo Cheng's death. Of course, one must say that Yun Leng had quite a great ability when handling such matters since he was able to become the First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect. Therefore, when he was explaining, his action of forcing the Xiao Yan to stay behind was described as tactfully wanting Xiao Yan to temporarily rest at the Misty Cloud Sect for a few days until the matter was clarified. These words were indeed something which Yun Leng had said however, the tone in which he tried to get Xiao Yan to stay behind was completely different. Therefore, even though he said it in this manner, no one could refute his words. After which, he talked about how Xiao Yan resisted and the strong people behind him appeared one after another. Finally Yun Leng used a stance of

being a protector and used the strength of the entire sect to protect the sect's reputation, but was still no match. Only then did he have little choice but to use the whistle and invite Yun Shan, who was in seclusion, out.

Most of what Yun Leng had said was the truth. However, after embellishing some of the things he said, the responsibility of the entire event now had completely become Xiao Yan's.

The entire square was completely quiet. Only Yun Leng's voice which carried some anger, was repeatedly heard.

A long while later, when Yun Leng finally said all that had to be said. He finished up in a grieved manner, "Old Sect Leader. Although Mo Cheng was only a deacon within the sect, his contributions to our Misty Cloud Sect these few years were extremely great. If we allow him to be randomly killed and do nothing about it, who would dare work for our sect in the future? Won't it cause them to be disillusioned?"

"It is also not that our Misty Cloud Sect is one of those sects who randomly wrongs people. We only asked that Xiao Yan live in the Misty Cloud Sect temporarily, for a short period of time. After we finish investigating the matter, I, Yun Leng, would have personally apologized to him if we had falsely accused him. However, he simply ignored my suggestion just because there was someone backing him. After the discussions became ineffective, he actually launched an attack. Although his own strength is nothing great, he has quite a number of helpers. Currently, the Sect Leader is absent, and I can only take the risk of disturbing old Sect Leader and ask for your assistance."

Xiao Yan folded his hands across his chest as stood in the air. He coldly watched Yun Leng who was repeatedly listing his offences and had long since given up trying to explain anything. This was because he knew that it was of not much use. People always favor their own. Could Xiao Yan hope that Yun Shan would help him by speaking to him?

After hearing Yun Leng explanation, Yun Shan's face did not have any expression. He slowly lifted his head and his gaze swept across his

surroundings. He laughed faintly, "It is really unexpected that the matter today has blown up until it is this big. Even Jia Xing Tian, Fa Ma, you two old fellows have also come."

Jia Xing Tian and Fa Ma exchanged glances and smiled. They pointed toward the sky and said, "There is one more person there."

"I know, Hai Bodong right? Just now, I sensed his Qi when I came out. It is just that I did not expect that he was actually still alive after so many years. I originally thought that he had been killed by Queen Medusa." Yun Leng lifted his head, eyed Hai Bodong as he spoke.

"Hee hee, isn't it the same for you, you old thing." Hai Bodong parted his mouth, stepped forward and said with a smile. Coincidentally, he blocked Xiao Yan behind him as he did so.

"He is Xiao Yan, right?" Yun Shan glanced at Xiao Yan behind Hai Bodong and asked.

"I pay my respects to Sect Leader Yun Shan." Xiao Yan intently watched Yun Shan whose entire body was emitting a pressurizing force. He smiled and said in neither an inferior nor arrogant manner.

"Your bearing is not bad. Unfortunately, you are a little weak." Yun Shan said faintly.

"Chi, Yun Shan, when you were seventeen, forget about Dou Zong, even if you were to see a Dou Wang, you would be agitated like it is something very great." Hai Bodong curled his lips and said.

"A seventeen years old Da Dou Shi, huh." Some shock flashed across those eyes which had been as indifferent as the breeze. He shook his head before lifting it and asked, "After listening to what Yun Leng had to say earlier, do the both of you have nothing to say to refute him?"

"Ke ke, since Sect Leader Yun Shan believes his words, why do we need to do something unnecessary." Xiao Yan smiled and replied in a somewhat mocking manner.

"I believe half of what Yun Leng has said. I understand his character." Yun Shan unexpectedly shook his head. "However, regardless of who is

right or wrong with regards to this matter, the few of you need to bare some responsibility for turning the Misty Cloud Sect into this mess.”

“Then what does Sect Leader Yun Shan want to do?”

“I shall not say any courteous words such as letting you stay as guests. Today, you have created a lot of trouble here which has damaged quite a bit of the Misty Cloud Sect’s reputation. We must redeem our reputation. Since the few of you have caused my Misty Cloud Sect to turn into such a dire state, then let me spar with the few of you.” Yun Shan’s hands slowly extended out of his sleeves as he calmly spoke. Yun Shan then indifferently glanced over Hai Bodong, Ling Ying and the enormous ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ that was suspended in the air.

“All of you can attack together.” Yun Shan lowered his head, pulled his sleeves and carelessly added.

“Hei, it is really unexpected that the Misty Cloud Sect has a strong Dou Zong. Now, it can barely squeeze into a top tier strength in the continent. Unfortunately, compared to Yun Bo Tian back then, it appears that you are still lacking by quite a bit.” Ling Ying’s body flashed and appeared in front of Xiao Yan. He faced Yun Shan below and laughed.

“This is the strong person from the continent, right? Which faction do you belong to? Although I have been in seclusion for a very long time, I still do know one or two things about the factions on the continent.” Yun Leng’s hand which was pulling his sleeves came to a stop as he lifted his head.

“This is something that I cannot reveal.” Ying Ling waved his hand. His face immediately turned grave as he said in a deep voice, “However, I will give you a reminder here. Don’t think that you can do as you please after becoming a Dou Zong. I advise you to not rashly touch him. Otherwise, you will definitely regret your actions!”

“There are many people on this continent who can destroy your Misty Cloud Sect!”

Yun Shan knit his eyebrows slightly together. He stared at Ling Ying. “Is that a threat?”

“You can think of it as such! Do not doubt the truth of the words I have said!” Ling Ying gave a tit for a tat as he stared at Yun Shan and said in a soft and deep voice.

“You can all attack together. The reputation the Misty Cloud Sect has accumulated over many generations cannot be destroyed in my hands. However, if you all can leave the Misty Cloud Sect from my hands, we will call it quits after today’s events.” Yun Shan sighed and did not say anything else. His body slowly rose into the air without any warning. The surge in energy actually caused the surrounding empty space to fluctuate a little.

Hai Bodong’s expression was a little grave as he watched Yun Shan slowly rise into the air. He and Ling Ying exchanged glances. The former then turned his head toward Xiao Yan and said in a deep voice, “You should let that large snake protect you. He and I will go and block Yun Shan.”

“The both of you be careful.” Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment before nodding his head. His gaze suddenly turned toward Ling Ying and said, “This old sir, I wonder if you...”

“Don’t ask anything regarding me. Once you leave the Misty Cloud Sect, I will also leave the Jia Ma Empire. When the time is ripe in the future, you will naturally know.” Ling Ying waved his hand and took the initiative to interrupt Xiao Yan’s words.

Xiao Yan was startled upon hearing this. He immediately smiled bitterly as he nodded his head. All he could do was flap his wings and pull back.

“Ah, it is really unexpected that in the end, they managed to disturb Yun Shan, this old fellow and got him to come out.” As he watched the situation in the sky, Fa Ma shook his head and sighed.

“Dou Zong. Hei, this old fellow actually succeeded.” Jia Xing Tian sucked his lips. An envy which he could not hide appeared on his face. He was currently at the peak of the Dou Huang class. As long as he advanced further, he could similarly enter that realm which many yearned for. Unfortunately, that one step difference was something that Jia Xing Tian

could not cross even after training for so many years.

“What should we do next? Should we go and mediate?” Fa Ma frowned and asked.

“It’s no use.” Jia Xing Tian shook his head. His gaze swept across the square below. As he eyed those Misty Cloud Sect disciples who had fainted and the damaged square, he smiled bitterly and said, “This time, Xiao Yan’s group has really given a tight slap to the Misty Cloud Sect. In order to redeem its reputation, Yun Shan must defeat them in front of all of us. Of course, after this matter is over, he might not make things too difficult for them. After all, there is the mysterious supporter behind Xiao Yan’s back which also caused him to be extremely fearful. Therefore, before he clearly investigates the mysterious faction behind Xiao Yan’s back, Yun Shan will not carelessly touch him.”

“Can Hai Bodong and that Ling Ying defeat Yun Shan?” Fa Ma nodded slightly before immediately asking.

“If they can, it will be very difficult.”

In the square, Yun Leng eyed the rising Yun Shan. He glanced over to Xiao Yan a distance away and a dark viciousness and a gloating cold laugh flashed across his eyes without anyone knowing.

“Hai Bodong, on account of our old friendship, I will not take your actions earlier into account.” Yun Shan faintly said as he floated on the same level as Hai Bodong and Ling Ying in the sky.

“Ah, just do it. It is a little late to talk about all this now.” Hai Bodong sighed and shook his head. As his fist rotated, a white-colored ice cold air overflowed from his body. Immediately, the surrounding temperature fell.

“Let me see just how much stronger you are compared to back then after you have advanced to the Dou Zong class.” Hai Bodong gently exhaled. His fist abruptly twisted and ten plus snow white circular shaped icicles suddenly appeared in front of him. They rotated at high speed and after images repeatedly appeared. They even emitted waves of humming sounds.

Beside him, Ling Ying's expression had also gradually grown serious. He waved his sleeves gently and strange black-colored shadows continued to be spat out from under his feet. His palms gripped slightly and the black-colored Qi swiftly agglomerated. An instant later, it actually once again formed a long black-colored lance that was twenty to thirty feet long. The long lance waved gently and the air formed ripples at the tip of the lance.

"Xiao Yan, go!" Hai Bodong let out a deep cry. He pushed his hand forward and the ten plus huge circular ice blades suddenly cut through the sky and shot explosively toward Yun Shan.

The moment Hai Bodong attacked, Ling Ying also grabbed the long black-colored lance. His body twisted and immediately launched the lance out.

The ice blades and the lance carried intense, frightening pressure as they directly shot toward Yun Shan a short distance away. Along the way, they actually left two long scars in the air wherever they passed.

The moment these two people unleashed their attacks, Xiao Yan flapped his wings. He gently landed on the head of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' and urged it on. The 'Heaven Swallowing Python' immediately turned its body. Its body may have been very large, but it displayed an extremely fast speed.

Seeing the response of Hai Bodong and Ling Ying, Yun Shan shook his head. He did not say any more nonsense. Lifting both his hands slowly, he aimed at the circular ice blades and the long black-colored lance from a distance. His mouth moved slightly and a faint voice was softly emitted, "Wind Wall!"

When Yun Shan's voice fell, a violent gust of wind appeared. Quickly, a deep green wind wall that spanned over half of the sky, formed. The size of the wall was so large that it made everyone below it awestruck.

"Bang!"

The circular ice blades and the long black-colored lance instantly arrived in front of the wind wall. The two collided and a thunderclap-like explosion resonated throughout the sky. Numerous energy ripples were

emitted from the point of collision. However, the dark green-colored wind wall, that was a little overly large, did not show the slightest hint of crumbling. The combined attack of Hai Bodong and Ling Ying appeared to have not posed much of a threat to Yun Shan's defense.

Hai Bodong's and Ling Ying's expressions changed slightly as they eyed the enormous wind wall that spanned across the sky.

The corner of Yun Shan's eyes glanced at the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' that was flying away. His right hand waved in the direction which it was flying. The sound of the wind caused a great tremor and a huge wind wall suddenly appeared in front of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. The latter was shocked and it hurried to forcefully move its body in order to avoid colliding with it.

"Ten Thousand Wind Bind!"

After blocking the flying path of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python', Yun Shan's hand suddenly made a fist in the direction of Hai Bodong and Ling Ying. Immediately, an essence wind rope that was agglomerated from wild wind appeared from all directions. The wind ropes were entangled with one another and finally shot through the air, like numerous long snakes. In an instant, Hai Bodong and Ling Ying suddenly realized that the two of them had been tied up without them even knowing. Immediately, the Dou Qi in their bodies flowed precipitously. However, each time they convulsed and broke some wind ropes, there would be more that whizzed and appeared in the air, binding the two of them even more firmly.

"Hu, he is indeed worthy of being a strong Dou Zong. The attack method which he uses cannot be considered outstanding, but two Dou Huangs do not have the strength to fight back in his hands. Is this the difference between the two levels?" Jia Xing Tian and the others involuntarily sighed as they watched Hai Bodong and Ling Ying being tied up by Yun Shan after just a mere exchange in the sky.

"It looks like Xiao Yan and the others are really completely defeated this time around."

After tying Hai Bodong and Ling Ying up, Yun Shan's eyes glanced at the

‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ which was planning to make a detour around the wind wall that was blocking its path. His foot stepped forward. When he next appeared, he was actually in front of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’.

The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ widened its snake eyes and glared at Yun Shan who had appeared in a flash. It opened its huge mouth and the seven-colored liquid which contained a potent poison shot explosively toward Yun Shan.

Yun Shan waved his hand and a wind wall appeared in front of him. The seven-colored liquid poured down and swiftly corroded the substance-like wind wall into nothingness. The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ was preparing to continue attacking, however, a massive strength was abruptly transmitted from its tail. It twisted its head to take a look only to find that Yun Shan, who should have been in front of it, had unknowingly appeared at its tail.

“Go down!” Yun Shan’s leg gently stepped on the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’s’ tail. An enormous strength caused the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ to emit a shrill hiss. Its body immediately and abruptly fell.

“Bang!” The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ smashed heavily on a corner of the square. Immediately, the hard ground was compressed by the enormous body until it cracked.

“Grug.”

Earlier, when Yun Shan unleashed a hidden force, Xiao Yan was also corroded by the hidden force as he was coincidentally on the body of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’. With his Da Dou Shi strength, even a mere drop of the hidden force still caused his expression to pale as he vomited a mouthful of fresh blood.

Xiao Yan rolled down from the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’s’ head. He wiped off the bloodstain from the corner of his mouth. Turning his head, he watched the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ with its snake eyes dimming. Its teeth involuntarily bit down and emitted a crunching sound.

“You guys have lost.” As a gentle wind blew across, Yun Shan’s figure

once again appeared in midair in front of Xiao Yan in a ghost-like manner as he said faintly.

The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth twitched slightly. With a choking sound, he pulled out the Heavy Xuan Ruler from his back. From a distance, he pointed at Yun Shan and spat out a mouthful of blood. He said with a cold smile, "There is still me."

Yun Shan slowly landed on the ground. After which, he walked toward Xiao Yan under everyone's gaze.

"Hiss!"

Seeing Yun Shan closing in, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' emitted a few sharp hisses from its mouth. Unfortunately, this did not cause Yun Shan's footsteps to pause. A moment when Yun Shan was increasingly close, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python's' huge tail was abruptly swung. It carried an enormous, dark shadow as it violently smashed toward Yun Shan.

The dark shadow that came from all directions did not cause any change in Yun Shan's expression. He waved his hand upward in a careless manner. A green-colored energy palm that was seventy feet tall appeared in the mid air. Immediately, it struck the huge tail of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. The huge force that was contained within it caused the tail of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' to fan over in the other direction. Over ten large trees with huge roots were smashed in the middle of their trunk through the area where the tail passed by.

"Hiss." The intense pain that was transmitted from the tail once again caused the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' to emit a wave of hissing sounds. Its hiss contained a pain that was difficult to hide.

Yun Shan indifferently watched the huge 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. He furrowed his brows slightly. This large fellow's ability to withstand being hit had already far exceeded an ordinary rank 5 Magical Beast.

The snake's eyes contained a crimson color as they stared intently at Yun Shan who was approaching. It widened its mouth and the seven-colored liquid was once again spat out. This time around, however, Yun

Shan did not even make the slightest move to dodge. He strolled directly through the liquid. Even the clothes on his body were not damaged as he did so.

Yun Shan's footsteps came to a slow stop. Yun Shan stared at Xiao Yan in front of him in an indifferent manner. He raised his palm and allowed it to fall gently down toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan stared intently at the palm which was moving increasingly closer. His face was completely flushed. This was because he had realized that at this moment, he was actually unable to move his body by even the slightest.

"Stop resisting. Stay at the Misty Cloud Sect for half a year. I will not harm you. However, you must pay a little price for your own recklessness." Yun Shan said calmly as he watched Xiao Yan who was going all out to break away from his restraints.

"Hiss!" Behind him, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python's' huge mouth violently bit at Yun Shan. Unfortunately, it was sent rolling with just a slap from the latter.

The palm of Yun Shan was becoming larger and larger within those dark black eyes of Xiao Yan. The hand which Xiao Yan held the Heavy Xuan Ruler with was also trembling with a great intensity. His mind was completely quiet at this moment. There was only the sound of his heart pounding continuously.

In that quiet world, there appeared to be some sort of extremely large force that was about to flow out turbulently.

However, the moment when that enormous energy was about to surge out, it abruptly paused. Immediately, it retreated in a lightning-like manner as though it had never appeared.

During the time that the enormous force was retreating, Xiao Yan's quiet state was also broken with its retreat. He lifted his head. Yun Shan's palm was merely half a centimeter from his own arm. Immediately, a hopeless emotion climbed into his heart.

“Hiss!”

At this critical moment, the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ behind Xiao Yan suddenly emitted a long hiss toward the sky. An intense glow abruptly surged violently from within it.

The unusual change of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ immediately attracted the gazes of everyone present. Even Yun Shan frowned intently at the cluster of intense glow. A moment later, however, an abrupt change finally appeared on his face which had been calm.

In the intense light behind Xiao Yan, a long mellow female’s hand suddenly extended dexterously. It appeared very slow, but it coincidentally blocked Yun Shan’s palm.

The moment the two hands came into contact. The ground suddenly trembled. Numerous, terror inducing, crack lines spread out over the ground, as though an earthquake had occurred.

“Old Fellow, have you enjoyed the beating you gave me?”

A bewitching yet cool voice that nearly caused men’s bones to become numb slowly spread throughout the square. Immediately, the faces of some of those with weaker mental strength turned as red as a cloud of flames.

A countless number of gazes turned toward the location of that voice. When they saw the enchanting and bewitching woman standing behind Xiao Yan, they involuntarily held their breath. However, those like Hai Bodong who recognized her, had terrified faces.

Xiao Yan swallowed a mouthful of saliva. As he slowly turned his head, an icily alluring, bewitching, and lovely beautiful face appeared in his sight.

Chapter 354: Descending the Mountain

Following the appearance of the bewitching person, the square descended into a temporary silence.

The silence persisted for a long while before it was finally broken by a terrified involuntary cry, "Queen Medusa?"

Only two words had been said, but it suddenly caused everyone in the square to give a cold shiver. This name was something that almost all the citizens of the Jia Ma Empire had heard of. That icily alluring, beautiful yet vicious woman had personally killed an unknown number of renowned strong people during the war with the Jia Ma Empire. In this empire, there were very few people who had the ability to contend with this bewitching woman.

This woman used her vicious means, that did not lose to those iron blooded emperors, to frighten the few empires around the Tager Desert, causing them to be afraid of rashly starting a war.

Many people used the word 'frightening' to describe her.

In the sky, the expression of Hai Bodong, which was originally grave, had completely turned to one of fear at this moment. He might be able to remain calm in front of Yun Shan, but in front of Queen Medusa, he was ultimately unable to hide the terror he felt for her within his heart. The fight in the Tager Desert back then had left a lingering fear in his heart that was still currently present.

Additionally, that seal which had caused him to suffer the fate of living in isolation for decades further resulted in Hai Bodong fearing Queen Medusa like he feared vipers and scorpions.

Besides feeling frightened, he suddenly shivered again. Seeing that intense blow earlier, it was clear that the huge seven-colored snake earlier had transformed from Queen Medusa. Just thinking of how he and this terrifying woman had lived together for an unknowingly long amount of time without him even realizing it, caused a shiver to run down Hai Bodong's spine.

“Xiao Yan, this fellow. He had Queen Medusa beside him and yet he did not tell me about it. Bastard. Does he want to get me killed?” Hai Bodong was somewhat furious in his heart as he silently scolded.

“Tsk tsk, Queen Medusa. This little fellow is worthy of being someone xiao-jie’s fancies. Although his strength is nothing great, the strong people protecting him just keep getting stronger and stronger. I think that he should be able to successfully leave after this journey to the Misty Cloud Sect even without even needing me to appear.” Ling Ying praised and shook his head. This sudden appearance of Queen Medusa also caused him to be extremely surprised.

TL: xiao-jie, young miss of a rich/powerful/noble family

The expressions of Fa Ma and Jia Xing Tian in the huge tree had also become extremely grave at this moment. The two of them exchanged glances and inhaled a deep breath of air. However, they were unable to even say a word. The blow this time around was indeed a little too surprising.

“Didn’t Queen Medusa fail in her advancement?” Gu He was stunned as he eyed that bewitching beautiful woman. His gaze slowly swept across Xiao Yan by the side. He frowned and softly said, “It looks like she did not fail, but was brought away by Xiao Yan after her advancement without anyone knowing. This fellow is really bold to the point that it causes people to be speechless. For this woman, killing a person is not much different than killing a chicken. He is really lucky to actually be able to live until now.”

Behind him, Liu Ling laughed bitterly. The strength that Xiao Yan had currently displayed clearly separated him from the younger generation. Even some people of the older generation could not compare with him.

Beside Gu He, Nalan Jie, Mu Cheng, and the others faced each other. Under the vicious reputation of Queen Medusa, they did not dare to emit even the slightest sound.

Xiao Yan’s throat quietly rolled for a moment. Without leaving a trace, his body shifted a little away. His gaze swept across the beauty behind

him. Although this was not the first time that Xiao Yan had seen her, he still could not resist quietly praising her beauty in his heart.

The body of the current Queen Medusa was merely wrapped by a pale purple robe. Her black hair moved along her shoulders and fell all the way to her raised butt before it stopped. Her tempting figure with the front protrusions and the raised backside was like a honey peach that had been ripened to its limit, repeatedly releasing a charm that caused people's hearts to boil. Xiao Yan's gaze moved down and was somewhat surprised to find that the snake's tail that was originally there had turned into two long, fair human legs at an unknown time. Her snow white small legs were suspended around half an inch from the ground. They were crystal clear without the slightest stain or dust.

"Queen Medusa, it is really unexpected that you were actually that strange, large python. No wonder I kept feeling that something was not right." Yun Shan's hand gently moved and an energy ripple was unleashed from his palm. He used that force to move his body a few steps back. That indifferent face of his once again had some seriousness appear on it.

Queen Medusa's long finger elegantly gave a gentle flick. The energy ripple that was spreading over automatically disappeared. She slowly took a step forward and was coincidentally in line with Xiao Yan. Those pupils which were filled with a unique addictive charm swept across Yun Shan as she said blandly, "I also did not expect that you actually broke through the Dou Huang barrier and entered the Dou Zong class."

"Didn't you also successfully evolve?" Yun Shan smiled. His gaze glanced toward Xiao Yan and said, "It is just that I really feel a little surprised. With your character, you actually take action to help a human?"

"If you did not touch the 'Heaven Swallowing Python', I would not have appeared. I am not very concerned over his life or death." Queen Medusa's eyes drifted over Xiao Yan as she said softly.

Xiao Yan spread his hands. His hand held the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightly and Dou Qi swiftly circulated within his body, preparing to hurriedly pull back at any moment if Queen Medusa were to make any strange moves.

He was similarly filled with caution toward this woman whose character was strange and unpredictable.

“Now that you have appeared, what do you plan on doing?” The white-colored long hair of Yun Shan’s drifted with the wind as he asked in a seemingly careless manner.

“Bring him away” Queen Medusa played with her delicate finger as she casually mentioned.

“It is possible for me not to touch that large snake you have transformed into.” Yun Shan knit his brows and said. After the lightning-like exchange earlier, he clearly understood that the current Queen Medusa had a strength which was not much weaker than his own. If they were to really fight, it was difficult to say who would emerge victorious.

“If I do not bring him away, that little fellow will immediately revolt. I am able to come out because of his danger. Only then did the little fellow abandon its suppression of me.” Queen Medusa’s delicate finger rubbed her clean forehead. There was a faint helplessness on her brows. Clearly, she was somewhat unwilling to save Xiao Yan.

Yun Shan appeared to have understood the words of Queen Medusa, which did not seem to make any sense. Immediately, the frown formed on his forehead deepened. His gaze slowly swept once around him as his expression continued to change. No one knew what he was thinking.

The square once again became quiet following Yun Shan’s silence. The other people temporarily did not have the qualification to interrupt when these two strong people at the peak were conversing.

Yun Leng rubbed his hands and watched Yun Shan who had begun to hesitate. His heart immediately became impatient. Naturally, he did not wish for Xiao Yan to successfully leave the Misty Cloud Sect after exhausting such a large effort. His palm gently touched the somewhat horrifying wound on his head. At this moment, it had already formed into a blood scar, but the intense pain still lingered in his head, causing the fury in Yun Leng to become increasingly great.

“Old Sect Leader, if you were to let Xiao Yan leave like this, it will

definitely damage our Misty Cloud Sect's reputation!" The fury accompanied by an intense pain repeatedly corroded Yun Leng's reasoning. All of sudden, he finally could not resist any longer and he cried out loud.

"Discordant." Queen Medusa picture-like brows knit slightly. She turned her head and watched Yun Leng who had cried out with her bewitching pupils. The bewitching glow within them became more intense.

Seeing that bewitching glow in Queen Medusa's eyes, Yun Leng suddenly felt anything but reassured. He was about to hurriedly pull away when his head felt a sudden giddiness. He lowered his head to take a look, only to realize the grey-colored rock beneath his feet had suddenly began spreading up along his legs.

TL: Medus!

"Stop!"

A soft cry abruptly appeared. Yun Shan's figure instantly appeared by Yun Leng's side. One of his legs ruthlessly stepped on the latter's feet. A surging force penetrated out, directly shattering the rock that was spreading upward into pieces.

Only after the rock turned into dust did Yun Leng's body escape from his restraints. Cold sweat appeared on his head as he swiftly took a few steps back, hiding behind Yun Shan. He did not dare to say anything more.

"Take him and leave!" Yun Shan sighed. Waving his hand abruptly, he spoke in a deep voice after staring intently at Queen Medusa.

Countless relieved sighs immediately reverberated from the square upon hearing these words of Yun Shan. The matter today had really been blown a little out of proportion. All of them simply hoped that the matter would be swiftly over. If this trouble were to continue, they did not know just how many strong people would get involved.

"Old Sect Leader." Yun Leng said somewhat unwillingly.

"Shut your mouth!" Yun Shan's expression was gloomy as he coldly cried out. His gaze turned toward Xiao Yan and said, "I have also heard about

the Three Year Agreement between you and Yanran from Yun Yun. She was indeed a little impulsive with regards to this matter. However, the agreement is already over. I hope that there is no longer any association between the two of you in the future. I do not wish to pursue the matter of the few of you creating a big mess in the Misty Cloud Sect today. However, this will be the one and only time. If you dare to do this in the future, my Misty Cloud Sect will properly ‘exchange some pointers’ even if you have Queen Medusa protecting you.”

TL: exchange some pointers – to fight

“Sect Leader Yun Shan, you can be rest assured that it is sufficient enough for me to come to such a place once.” Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air. He cupped his hands toward Yun Shan and said with a faint smile.

“Get going.” Yun Shan’s expression did not appear nice as he waved his hand.

Queen Medusa glanced at Xiao Yan. She did not utter any other nonsense as she turned around and walked toward the rock stairs outside the square. Xiao Yan lifted the Heavy Xuan Ruler and took a few steps back while facing Yun Shan. Finally, his gaze swept toward Nalan Yanran in the crowd. He realized that the other party had coincidentally thrown her complicated gaze over.

The two gazes entwined with one another. They were completely different emotions compared to the time that Xiao Yan arrived.

Xiao Yan withdrew his gaze. He lowered his eyes, turned around and followed Queen Medusa under the watch of a countless number of gazes.

In the sky, Hai Bodong’s expression was volatile as he watched Queen Medusa for a long time. Only then did he flapped his wings. He stayed high in the sky and refused to descend no matter what happened.

Under the watch of all the gazes in the Misty Cloud Sect, the back of Xiao Yan and Queen Medusa slowly disappeared beyond the endless rock stairs that were shrouded by clouds.

“Ah, it is finally over.”

As they eyed the two people who disappeared from the edge of their vision, the strong people in those huge trees heaved a long sigh of relief. They looked at each other and laughed bitterly. Who would expect that a mere competition that was agreed between two people of the younger generation would end up actually drawing out this terrifying line-up which actually left them breathless.

“Everyone. The matter today will end like this. I’m really sorry for letting everyone see a farce of the younger generation.” Yun Shan lifted his eyes, took one look around his surroundings and laughed slightly.

“Ke ke, Sect Leader Yun Shan really knows how to joke. Since the matter is over, we shall not stay any longer. If we have time in the future, we will come and visit the Misty Cloud Sect.” Everyone standing on the tops of the huge trees could naturally hear the order to chase away the guests, within Yun Shan’s words. Immediately, they knew that it was not wise to stay for long in such a place. Therefore, after saying a few courteous words, all of them brought their people, flashed down the trees and flew toward the foot of the mountain.”

“Old Sect Leader, are we just going to allow Xiao Yan to leave like this? He has turned our Misty Cloud Sect until it is in this state.” Yun Leng’s eyed the people who left before looking at the spot where Xiao Yan had disappeared from with a face that was filled with unwillingness. Finally, he could no longer resist speaking.

“What do you want to do?” Yun Shan glanced at him faintly and said, “Even I do not have the confidence to defeat that Queen Medusa. Moreover, there are the other two strong Dou Huangs. With this line-up, what kind of large price must we pay in order to get Xiao Yan to stay behind?”

Yun Leng clenched his teeth and said, “But from this matter today, it is clear that Xiao Yan does not give our Misty Cloud Sect any face. If we do not find an opportunity to redeem ourselves, won’t we become a joke once this matter spreads?”

Yun Shan frowned slightly and said, "What do you plan to do?"

"Seeing the helpers behind Xiao Yan today, I dare to guarantee that Mo Cheng's death definitely has something to do with him. Since he doesn't wish to stay at the Misty Cloud Sect, we can perhaps go to Wu Tan City to 'invite' his father over." Yun Leng softly said.

"Stupidity!" Yun Shan's expression sunk as he softly reprimanded, "I think you have really become muddled in your old age. Since you know that Xiao Yan has quite a number of helpers behind him, you are still going to offend him because of Mo Cheng? Is it really worth it? The matter ends here. Don't mention it again in the future!"

After saying these words, Yun Shan waved his sleeves. He turned around and walked toward the middle of the square, where he began to arrange for men to sort out the mess.

Yun Leng's expression was green and white as he eyed Yun Shan who had brushed his sleeves and left. He slowly rubbed the horrifying wound on his head and his pale old face had once again become savage. The gaze which he used to watch the spot where Xiao Yan had disappeared was filled with enmity and a dark viciousness.

Not long after the situation at the square came to an end, a rushing wind sound suddenly appeared in the sky. Immediately, a graceful and elegant shadow suddenly appeared in the sky above the open ground. Her beautiful eyes swept across the mess on the ground and her pretty face involuntarily sunk abruptly.

"Teacher."

In the square, Nalan Yanran was the first to discover the graceful beauty who had slowly descended from the sky. She was slightly startled. Her pretty eyes immediately became completely red as she swiftly rushed over. After which, she knocked into the latter's chest. The grievances in her heart finally turned into a moaning cry.

"Sect Leader. Sect Leader has returned!"

As all the Misty Cloud Sect disciples in the square looked at the moon-

robed woman who had appeared, they were so excited that they knelt down.

“Alright, alright. Yanran, stop crying. Tell teacher what exactly happened.”

The moon-robed woman warmly rubbed Nalan Yanran’s soft long hair. She slowly lifted her head. That noble and graceful beautiful face was shockingly the same person who had lived a dubious life with Xiao Yan at the Magical Beast Mountain Range back then... Yun Zhi...

Chapter 355: Separation and Transaction

On a small path which was lush with greenery, two human figures, a man and a woman, with one in front of the other, slowly walked. The quiet atmosphere shrouded the both of them.

In the sky above the two people's heads, two figures were also following far behind.

At a certain moment, the woman, who was ahead of the others, stopped walking. Her delicate hand gently twirled the black hair in front of her forehead. With a cool voice, she spat some words from her alluring red lips, "The two of you above. Aren't you tired of flying?"

Although her voice was not very loud, the two human figures in the sky stopped simultaneously a moment later. They exchanged glances and could only slowly land in a huge tree behind Xiao Yan.

"Old Hai, what is your intention now? Until now, I have yet to gather all of the medicinal ingredients needed for the 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill' of yours." Xiao Yan carefully took a step back. His head turned toward Hai Bodong as he spoke.

Hai Bodong was startled upon hearing this. He frowned slightly as his gaze, which contained some fear, swept over Queen Medusa who was leaning on a tree trunk, casually playing with a fallen leaf. He mused for a while and smiled bitterly, "Little fellow, since you have successfully left the Misty Cloud Sect, it is likely that you don't need me to continue protecting you from now on. As for the 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill,' if you are able to gather the necessary ingredients in the future, you can help me refine it and then find a person you trust to hand it over to me. Henceforth, I will likely continue to be in the capital."

Xiao Yan pursed up his lips and nodded in silence. He solemnly bowed toward Hai Bodong in the tree and said in a deep voice, "Old Hai, regardless of what happens, I, Xiao Yan will remember the help that you have given me today. In the future, if Old Hai has any matters that are difficult to solve or needs to gather people, the little me will use all my

strength to help you if it is within my capability!”

“Ke ke, alright. Since it is like this, then let us part ways here. If you need any help in the future, you can directly come to the Primer clan in the capital.” Hai Bodong smiled, nodded his head as he replied.

“Yes.”

“Remember, little fellow, I may not know what your relationship with Queen Medusa is, but regardless of what happens, you should take a more cautious approach when dealing with her. The viciousness of this woman is far beyond your expectations.” The corner of Hai Bodong’s eyes once again glanced over at Queen Medusa in front of them. His mouth moved slightly and a voice which was so soft that one could not hear was wrapped by Dou Qi and quietly transmitted into Xiao Yan’s ear.

Xiao Yan nodded without anyone noticing.

“Goodbye, little fellow!” Hai Bodong once again cupped his hands toward Xiao Yan. He then glanced at Ling Ying beside him and also gave him a friendly smile. After which, he flapped the wings on his back and suddenly shot into the sky, disappearing in the blue sky.

“This old sir.” Once he had sent Hai Bodong off with his eyes, Xiao Yan once again threw his gaze toward the smiling Ling Ying and said respectfully.

“Ke ke, according to my orders, my mission was completed once you left the Misty Cloud Sect. Therefore, I should also return.” Ling Ying smiled and raised a thumb toward Xiao Yan. “Little fellow, this time around, you have done well. You have courage.”

“Old Sir has given me too much praise. The little me is only emboldened because there are the few of you supporting me. Otherwise, no matter how brave I am, I would not dare to act presumptuously at the Misty Cloud Sect.” Xiao Yan smiled and said.

Ling Xiao had a good laugh as he replied, “Little fellow, your character is the kind that I like. However, I have other missions to complete and cannot continue to stay any longer. I will bid you goodbye here. If we meet

again in the future, the old me will invite you to drink with me to our heart's content."

"Thank you very much." Xiao Yan watched Ling Ying slowly rising and nodded with a smile.

"Additionally, on account of us having similar character, I will leave some words for you." Ying Ling's pair of wings came to an abrupt stop. He looked directly at Xiao Yan and said in a serious manner, "The Dou Qi continent is very big. You must hurry up and make yourself stronger. Otherwise, you will not even have the right to choose the person whom you love!"

"Alright, that is all I have to say. Look out for yourself. You will know the meaning of these words of mine in the future." Ling Ying waved his hand while his body swiftly rose into the sky. Accompanied by the sound of rushing wind, his body turned into a blurry black shadow which swiftly disappeared over the horizon.

"Ah, everyone has left."

Xiao Yan stood in the spot and let out a soft sigh. He immediately frowned a little as he watched Ying Ling who had disappeared into the horizon, feeling a little unsure about the words the other party had left behind.

"Alright, you should have finished saying your goodbyes, no?" While Xiao Yan was staring stupidly into space, a faint numbing voice pulled him back from his absent mindedness.

Xiao Yan turned his body around and watched Queen Medusa, who was using her pair of bewitchingly beautiful eyes to stare at him. He pulled at the corner of his mouth and revealed a somewhat ugly smile as he said awkwardly, "That... your majesty, why have you not transformed back?"

"Transformed back?" Queen Medusa raised her eyebrows as she stared at Xiao Yan in a half smiling manner. "Who says that I am going to transform back?"

"Don't tell me that you have completely assimilated with the spirit of the

‘Heaven Swallowing Python’?” Xiao Yan’s expression changed slightly. The fists in his sleeves abruptly tightened.

Queen Medusa faintly glanced at Xiao Yan. The tiny change of his body could not escape her. She straightened her body and stretched her lazy wrist. Her alluring curves were extremely eye-piercing. However, the current Xiao Yan did not dare to leave his gaze on those spots in a presumptuous manner. As long as he made the slightest inappropriate move in front of this person who was feared by even a strong person like Yun Shan, the other party could instantly take his life.

“As the price of rescuing you, that little fellow will not be able to appear for three days.” A faint smile was present on Queen Medusa’s lips. Clearly, she was extremely satisfied with their exchange this time around.

“Oh.” Xiao Yan sighed in relief within his heart. He rolled his eyes and smiled as he said, “In that case, is Queen Medusa planning to use a human shape to follow me around during these three days?”

“Don’t think any funny thoughts. That will cause you to lose your life.” Queen Medusa moved her feet, carrying a unique fragrant wind that caused a fire to rise within people’s belly. She arrived in front of Xiao Yan. That smiling manner of hers, however, caused Xiao Yan’s entire body to stiffen.

Her snow white hand suddenly extended in front of Xiao Yan. That fair, tender, delicate smooth small hand gave people an impulse to bite at it.

“Give that thing to me.” Queen Medusa said in a gentle and soft manner.

“What thing?” Xiao Yan’s face was at a lost regarding this.

“The medicinal formula for the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’.” Queen Medusa slowly and leisurely relieved Xiao Yan of his ignorance.

“Uh.” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth twitched. Xiao Yan immediately smiled bitterly and sighed. His hand gently tapped on his storage ring and the medicinal formula for the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ which he had spent a tremendous amount of effort to obtain was easily handed over to the other party’s hand in this manner.

Queen Medusa delicate hand held the medicinal formula for the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’. For the first time, an emotion that suggested she could no longer wait appeared on that bewitching face of Queen Medusa. Her hands pulled open the medicinal formula and her beautiful eyes read in detail the effect of the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ which had been recorded on it. A long while later, she exhaled a long breath of air. She folded the medicinal formula, waved her delicate finger and the medicinal formula began to agily rotate above her hand.

Xiao Yan muttered in his heart as he watched Queen Medusa who had descended into silence. He too, could only remain quiet.

“Pa!” The rotating medicinal scroll suddenly hit softly in her hand. Queen Medusa lifted that pair of bewitching pretty eyes, which caused people to involuntarily be obsessed with them. She stared at Xiao Yan and waved the medicinal formula in her hand at him. She asked, “You should have already seen it, right?”

“Yes.” Xiao Yan honestly nodded.

“Can you refine it?” Queen Medusa softly asked. At this moment, Xiao Yan could sense that the former’s breathing had quietly hastened.

“I am only an alchemist who is not even at the fourth tier. This ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ is a tier six medicinal pill.” Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and spread his hands out. Before his words fell, however, he was interrupted by a cold laughter from the opposite side.

“Although my spirit has been suppressed by the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’, I am vaguely aware of some of the matters regarding you. Back then, wasn’t the medicinal pill you gave Hai Bodong to break the seal which I had placed also of the sixth tier? I may not be sure why at times your strength is not in tune with before, I clearly know that you can refine a tier six medicinal pill!”

“If you are able to refine a tier six medicinal pill, you have the qualifications to speak with me. If you really cannot, I don’t mind... at this spot.” Queen Medusa’s hand gently cut across Xiao Yan’s neck. The latter immediately felt his neck turn cold and he hurriedly touched it. He was

shocked to realize that drops of fresh red blood had actually appeared on his neck.

“What Old Hai said is true. This woman is really vicious.” Xiao Yan swallowed a mouthful of saliva as he quietly cursed in his heart. After musing for a moment, he no longer continued to conceal the information. He looked directly at Queen Medusa. “Alright, I can help you refine the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’. But what benefits can I get?”

“Benefits? I can forget about the matter of you offending me earlier.” Queen Medusa said faintly.

“Chi, in that case, you can find someone else to refine it. I am not interested.” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth curled upon hearing this as he coldly laughed.

Queen Medusa’s beautiful eyes narrowed slightly. An ice cold killing intent slowly shrouded her. A seven-colored energy had suddenly surged out of her delicate hand like waves of water. She watched the seven-colored water-like waves and softly asked with a smile, “Do you have the qualification to discuss terms with me?”

“If you were to really kill me, I’m afraid that the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’s’ spirit will also instantly launch a counterattack, no?” Xiao Yan took a step back. A green-colored flame quietly appeared on his hand that was covered within his sleeves.

The killing intent that shrouded Queen Medusa suddenly became sluggish. She furrowed her eyebrows slightly and said, “You are indeed quite intelligent to actually know how to rely on your relationship with the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ to suppress me.”

Seeing this, Xiao Yan sighed in relief. From the looks of things, it appeared that the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ still had some use in suppressing Queen Medusa.

“I am not someone who would extort an extravagant sum from others. However, your majesty’s attempt to harness a white wolf with your bare hands isn’t very kind. Refining a tier six medicinal pill is an extremely troublesome and tiring thing. Yet, you want me to go all out to refine it

with just a casual mention from you. Where can you find such a good thing in this world? Don't you agree, Queen Medusa?" Xiao Yan appeared somewhat helpless as he spoke.

TL: harness a white wolf with your bare hands – to force someone to do something without the appropriate reward

"Stop giving me this glib-tongue of yours. Just tell me your conditions." Queen Medusa said faintly.

"Now that Hai Bodong and that Ling Ying old sir have left, I suddenly no longer feel safe." Xiao Yan rubbed his head and laughed awkwardly, "As long as Queen Medusa is willing to promise to protect the little me for three years, I will help you refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill ' no matter what."

"Tsk tsk, protecting you for three years?" A smile immediately surfaced on Queen Medusa's bewitching pretty face. Her hand was gently placed on Xiao Yan's shoulders. That smile of hers was extremely moving. "In which case, isn't it better to simply take the risk of being suppressed by the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' and kill you now?"

"In other words, there is nothing to discuss then?" Xiao Yan pulled his shoulders back and widened his hand.

"Alright, you can forget about those unrealistic thoughts. I am not as stupid as Hai Bodong. I will give you one year's time. In this one year's time, I will not be your fighter. I will only come out and help you get rid of the trouble only when you are in a situation where you are about to die. During other times, I might take action if my mood is good. Of course, if you are unable to take out the 'Thawing Spirit Pill ' in this one year's time, don't blame me for being ruthless. These are my conditions. Do you agree or not?" Queen Medusa said in a somewhat impatient manner.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. He finally raised his head a long while later to look at the pretty face of Queen Medusa which already contained a little ice cold killing intent. He could only nod his head unwillingly.

"Alright."

Hearing this, the killing intent on Queen Medusa's pretty face immediately changed into an enchanting, gentle smile.

Chapter 356: The Journey Back Home

As Xiao Yan eyed Queen Medusa who had withdrawn her killing intent in only an instant, he could only laugh bitterly. This woman indeed did not simply rely on her reputation to cause so many strong people within the Jia Ma Empire to greatly fear her.

“Where do you plan to go next?” Queen Medusa returned the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill Formula’ to Xiao Yan and randomly asked.

Xiao Yan carefully received the medicinal formula. He mused for a moment before saying: “I think I will make a trip back to Wu Tan City first. After which, I might have to leave the Jia Ma Empire for a period of time.”

“Leaving the Jia Ma Empire, huh.” Queen Medusa frowned slightly upon hearing this before immediately nodding slightly. She lazily said “Up to you. In any case, those few leaders within the Snake-People race can temporarily take over in my absence. Until you refine the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’ I will continue to follow you.”

Xiao Yan sighed in relief upon seeing that she did not oppose his plan. His hand gently patted the huge black ruler on his back and smiled as he said, “Since it is like this, let us go.”

“The matter with the Misty Cloud Sect is already over. The current you should not be in a hurry for some time, no? When we pass by some huge cities during this trip back to Wu Tan City, help me look for the medicinal ingredients needed to refine the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’.” Queen Medusa said faintly. Her words indicated that she was discussing the manner, yet her tone did not allow Xiao Yan to object to the suggestion.

With regards to this, Xiao Yan could only helplessly nod his head. His eyes glanced at that enchanting, bewitching face of Queen Medusa before shrugging his shoulders and saying, “I suggest for you to cover your face when you enter the city. Otherwise, there will be some unnecessary trouble that will cause quite the headache.”

Queen Medusa nodded her head slightly. She turned around and slowly

walked along a small path within a dense forest.

Xiao Yan shrugged as he eyed the curvy and attractive figure. He turned his head and his gaze shifted toward the edge of his vision, where the green-colored rock stairs were partially visible. His gaze slowly moved upward and finally stopped at the mountain peak which was shrouded by fog. After being silent for a moment, he let out a gentle sigh. This agreement which had shackled him for three years was finally completed. As the three year target which had caused him to put in effort and struggle faded away, his heart suddenly felt somewhat empty. However, this loss did not last for very long. A young lady's elegant smile suddenly appeared in his mind caused a warm smile to appear on his face.

"Xun Er, are you living well there? Wait for me." Xiao Yan softly muttered. A cluster of heat rose in his heart as he thought of the young lady whom he had not seen for nearly two years.

Xiao Yan turned around. His gaze glanced at the moving figure which had already walked out of the dense forest. With a smile, he hurriedly chased after her.

Xiao Yan did not return to the capital after leaving the Misty Cloud Mountain. Instead, he and Queen Medusa changed their direction and flew toward Wu Tan City.

The distance between the capital and Wu Tan City was almost half an empire away. Even with Xiao Yan's and Queen Medusa's flying speed, to cover this huge distance would require at least two to three days. Moreover, due to Queen Medusa's request, Xiao Yan had to stop whenever they passed by bigger cities and wait for the auction houses and trade fairs to open. As a result of all this, the time they took for their journey was greatly increased. It was fortunate that the Three Year Agreement was currently over, and that Xiao Yan had already escaped the kind of life in the past where he had to squeeze out all the time he had. Along the way, he did not have any constraint or burden in his heart. He swayed leisurely, appearing very relaxed. This was the first time that he had truly enjoyed such a laid back life after the start of the Three Year Agreement.

During the three days that he was hurrying home, the two of them may have lingered about some large cities for some time, but Queen Medusa was somewhat disappointed that they did not even find one of the unique medicinal ingredients that were needed to refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill'. She was also helpless with regards to this. After all, if it were so easy to find the ingredients needed to refine a tier six medicinal pill, its value would also not be so expensive.

The two of them walked and stopped along the way, like a walking horse observing the flowers. However, Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised that Queen Medusa still did not transform back into the shape of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' despite the three days, that she mentioned, being over. With regards to this, she explained that she had privately discussed with the spirit of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' and thus delayed the time that she was to transform back.

Xiao Yan may have felt somewhat astonished at this explanation, but he did not have any other choice. If she did not transform back, did he have the ability to force her to do so? When that time came, a slap would come swinging over. Vomiting blood and being seriously injured would be a small matter by then.

As time quietly passed, Xiao Yan and Queen Medusa came increasingly closer to Wu Tan City's territory. Due to them being delayed by searching for medicinal ingredients, almost five days had been used for what was originally a mere two to three day journey.

Hei Yan City, a huge city in the northern province of the Jia Ma Empire. From here, it was not far from Wu Tan City. With Xiao Yan's and Queen Medusa's speed, they should be able to reach it within half a day. Since this city was famous for medicinal ingredients in the northern region, however, Queen Medusa swiftly landed without seeking Xiao Yan's opinion. At the city's outskirts, she used a thin green yarn to cover her face before she grandly walked toward Hei Yan City. Behind her, Xiao Yan could only, in a resigned manner, resist his desire to return home, and helplessly followed behind her.

The two of them strolled into the city. During that time, no one came to

stop them. Although the eyes of the soldiers guarding the city involuntarily and repeatedly swept over Queen Medusa's mature and beautiful body, that high and noble aura of hers caused those soldiers, who were ready to create trouble, to not even think about stepping forward to interrogate them.

After entering the city, Xiao Yan led the way and walked a distance along the street. After which, he entered a restaurant where there was quite a large amount of human traffic. The people of the northern part of the empire were sturdy folks, therefore it was only possible to commonly see such a restaurant in the northern region of the empire. It was not common to see them in luxurious places like the capital.

People from all trades gathered at such a restaurant. A lot of the news and information among the common people in the empire were spread from such places. Therefore, it could swiftly inform Xiao Yan where the best and widest variety of medicinal ingredients were located within the city.

The two of them walked into the restaurant and sat at a table beside the window. Queen Medusa supported her cheek with her hand as her pretty eyes stared out of the window. Her expression was that of disregard and indifference. During these few days, all the matters regarding getting information were entirely handled by Xiao Yan.

Seeing this manner of hers, Xiao Yan could only helplessly shake his head. He waved his hand and called a female servant over. After ordering some wine, which was not very potent, he stood up and headed toward some spots which were crowded with people. After doing this again and again for a long time, Xiao Yan finally withdrew back to the table with a face covered in perspiration. He eyed Queen Medusa who was comfortably sipping the wine and could not resist sighing dispiritedly. Was this woman not a little too arrogant.

"How was it? Have you asked clearly?" Queen Medusa's pretty eyes glanced at Xiao Yan as she softly asked.

"It is said that there is a herb hall with great fame in this city. There are

some stocks for many rare medicinal ingredients there. It is just that the price for them is extremely expensive.” Xiao Yan lifted his wine cup and poured it into his mouth before growling.

“Take a rest. After this, we will go to that herb hall to take a look.” Queen Medusa nodded in satisfaction as she replied with a smile.

Xiao Yan gently patted the black ruler on his back, but was too lazy to continue speaking.

“Hey, have you heard of the matter with regards to the Misty Cloud Sect?” Just as Xiao Yan and Queen Medusa were resting quietly, a secretive voice could be heard not far from their table, causing Xiao Yan to throw his gaze over.

“Chi, you are talking about the matter of the young man called Xiao Yan creating a huge mess at the Misty Cloud Sect, no?” A man curled his lips in disdain at his companion who had a mysterious looking face.

“Uh, you already knew about it?” The person who spoke earlier was immediately startled as he embarrassingly asked.

“A matter as big as this has already been spread around two days ago. That Xiao Yan beat the Misty Cloud Sect’s Junior Sect Leader Nalan Yanran in an official match. I heard that it seems to be because of Nalan Yanran cancelling their engagement three years ago. Looking at it now, the news of Nalan Yanran being forcefully divorced by Xiao Yan back then does indeed have some reliability to it. Seeing the strength and talent that the current Xiao Yan has displayed, he is more than enough to be worthy of being married to Nalan Yanran.”

“Uh, what happened after that?”

“After that, it seems that the Misty Cloud Sect wanted to forcefully retain Xiao Yan. Hee Hee. Although he is young, the strong people behind him are really terrifying to the point of leaving others speechless. I have heard that in that battle back then, not only two strong Dou Huang, but also Queen Medusa from the Snake-People race appeared. The Misty Cloud Sect may have used all their effort, but they still ended up letting Xiao Yan leave in one piece.”

“Queen Medusa?” When this word left his mouth, the surrounding people exclaimed.

“Hee hee, according to reliable information, that Xiao Yan is also the champion of this season’s Alchemist Grand Meeting.” The shocked gazes surrounding him caused the vanity of that man to inflate. He laughed and once again exposed surprising information.

“Isn’t the champion of the Alchemist Grand Meeting called Yan Xiao?” A soft voice abruptly appeared.

“Yan Xiao, Xiao Yan. Isn’t it him if we were to read it in reverse, ha ha.” The man gloatingly said with a smile.

“Uh.” The surrounding people were momentarily blank. Immediately, they came to a sudden realization. Although this matter regarding the name was worth nothing once it was pointed out, what kind of normal person would have nothing better to do, but read a name in reverse?

“Ah, this fellow is really incredible. At such an age, he has already done such earth-shaking things. In the future, once he grows up, won’t he be even more incredible?” The man violently poured a potent wheat wine into his mouth and sighed with envy. Which man did not have a hot-blooded dream of doing something huge? Due to their limited ability, however, many people were destined to only fantasize about such things.

Xiao Yan was somewhat stunned to hear the conversation that was transmitted over, and could not help but bitterly smile and shake his head. He did not expect that the matter at the Misty Cloud Sect had actually spread over to the other side of the empire in merely a few days.

“You are now a renowned person.” Queen Medusa shook the wine cup in her hand and teased.

Xiao Yan spread out his hands and said, “I am not interested in such thing. Alright, let’s go and see whether the herb hall has the medicinal ingredients we need.”

“Yes.”

Xiao Yan and Queen Medusa stood up and were about to leave the

restaurant when the conversation from the table beside them was once again transmitted over, causing Xiao Yan's expression to change slightly.

"That Xiao Yan seems to be someone from the Xiao clan at Wu Tan City, no?"

"That's right, the Xiao clan can really show their face this time around. With this clan member who is a totally terrifying person, who in the northern region would dare to be disrespectful to the Xiao clan?"

"Hee hee, that may not be so. Coincidentally, I have just come over from Wu Tan City a short while ago. I heard that the Xiao clan has met some trouble during these two days."

"Hm? There is actually someone who dares to go to the Xiao clan to find trouble at this time?"

"I am not sure about this. The Xiao clan is very strict on maintaining its secrets. I am also uncertain about the exact news." That man shook his head before lowering it to drink a mouthful of wheat wine. However, he abruptly stilled. He raised his head slowly and looked at the black robed young man who had appeared in front of him. A powerful force shrouded the latter's body, causing him, who was merely a two star Dou Zhe to swallow a mouthful of saliva. He carefully said, "This sir, is there something wrong?"

"What you just said... What problem did the Xiao clan encountered?" Xiao Yan asked in a deep voice.

"Uh. The little me is not very certain. I have only heard that the an overly intense fight had erupted at the Xiao clan two days ago. After that, the Xiao clan denied any outside guest from entering. Moreover, from that day on, clan leader Xiao Zhan who had frequently made appearances no longer appeared. I think that he should be sorting out the matter within the clan." The man said in a perturbed manner.

Xiao Yan's expression gradually became dark and solemn. His heart suddenly felt an uneasiness. After saying his thanks to the man, he turned around and hurriedly walked down the stairs with Queen Medusa.

“The weapon on that person’s back is rather strange.” One person suddenly said in a soft voice as they watched Xiao Yan who had disappeared from the spot where the stairs was.

“Weapon? Ruler?” The man earlier was startled. Suddenly, he appeared to have recalled something. A shock gradually surfaced on his face as he cried out involuntarily, “He is Xiao Yan?! He is actually this young?”

The current Xiao Yan naturally did not pay attention to the commotion in the restaurant above. After going down the stairs, he stood on the street and tightly furrowed his brows. He eyed Queen Medusa and said, “I cannot stay here. I need to return to Wu Tan City now.”

Hearing this, Queen Medusa’s eyebrows were gently knit together. She faintly said, “Let’s take a look at the medicinal shop here first. If there is the medicinal ingredient that I need...”

“I said, I want to return to Wu Tan City now!” Xiao Yan’s gaze was fierce as he stared at Queen Medusa while voicing each word with a pause as he spoke in a deep voice.

Queen Medusa was startled at Xiao Yan’s attitude which had suddenly become firm. During these few days, Xiao Yan had never gone against what she said. It was really unexpected that he would actually directly contradict her at this moment. This caused Queen Medusa, whose identity was a queen of a race, to be a little furious.

“This queen wants to find the medicinal ingredients!” Her bewitching pupils stared icily at Xiao Yan as Queen Medusa slowly said.

Xiao Yan’s eyes stared intently at the pair of pupils which caused men to be obsessed over. He abruptly extended his hand and under Queen Medusa’s stunned gaze, he tightly grabbed her delicate hand which was so soft that it appeared to be boneless. Before the latter was about to explode, he coldly said, “If you want the ‘Thawing Spirit Pill’, then don’t put on your airs that belongs to a queen in front of me. Earlier, I respected you because you had helped me escape. If you continue to pester me annoyingly and become unreasonable, don’t blame me for not giving you face.”

“Go!”

Once he said those words, Xiao Yan pulled her along and swiftly ran toward the exterior of the city. Queen Medusa appeared to have suffered a severe shock because of Xiao Yan's sudden explosion, which was completely different from the period of time earlier. At this moment, she actually did not have any reaction. Only her eyes carried some shocked as she stared at the former. She had never thought that there would actually be someone who dared to roar at her in such a fierce manner given her status.

For a time, an emotion where she felt neither able to laugh nor cry suddenly rose within Queen Medusa's heart. How many years had it been since she was treated in this manner by someone? Moreover, this was from a young Da Dou Shi whom she could send flying with a mere slap of hers. Did he think that his life was too long?

Xiao Yan pulled Queen Medusa and dashed out of the city. He swiftly summoned out the Purple Cloud Wings and quickly flew toward Wu Tan City.

By pushing himself to the limit, a partially visible city's outline vaguely appeared in Xiao Yan's sight in merely two hours.

Chapter 357: The Turn of Events in the Xiao Clan

The two of them landed at a spot not far from Wu Tan City. Xiao Yan ignored Queen Medusa by his side after landing. His expression was somewhat dark as he swiftly walked toward the city's gate which was wide open.

Once he walked closer to the city's gate, Xiao Yan lifted his head to glance at the enormous three words 'Wu Tan City' above the city's gate. His footsteps halted involuntarily. As he eyed the crowded and noisy human voices which were transmitted faintly through the tunnel of the city gate, he sighed gently and muttered to himself, "Wu Tan City. I, Xiao Yan, have finally returned home."

Xiao Yan lifted his feet and walked to the city's gate and passed through the somewhat dark tunnel into the city. After which, the space in front of his eyes suddenly brightened under the sunlight. He lifted his head slightly and a dear and familiar intersection on the street appeared in his sight.

"It has been two years, but almost nothing has changed." Xiao Yan laughed softly. The faint warm feeling of returning home caused the dark and solemn look on his face to weaken a little. He turned his head and glanced at Queen Medusa who was walking at a steady pace that was neither fast nor slow behind him. After which, he turned his head back, lifted his leg, and swiftly walked down the street which he had walked for over a decade.

As Xiao Yan was worried about the event that had happened to the clan in his heart, Xiao Yan did not stop along the way. He hurriedly and swiftly walked on the street from his memory. Along the way, when he passed by a few markets which had belonged to the Xiao clan, he halted his footsteps slightly. He frowned as he saw that the markets had few people. After which, his footsteps gradually became quicker.

Over ten minutes later, Xiao Yan who had passed through a few streets with great familiarity suddenly stopped his footsteps. He lifted his head

and looked at a large courtyard located at the edge of the street. The door of the courtyard had two large words, 'Xiao clan'. This caused him to slowly sigh in relief.

Xiao Yan stood in front of the door to his own clan, but he was much quieter. His gaze swept over the surroundings of the Xiao clan. When he had left home back then, this place had been extremely crowded. Currently, however, it was now very deserted. Not one domineering guard standing orderly by the main door could be seen now.

"Just what exactly happened?" Xiao Yan frowned slightly. He tilted his head and glanced at Queen Medusa behind her. After being quiet for a moment, he suddenly asked softly, "Can you promise me something?"

"No." This woman appeared to still be bearing a grudge over Xiao Yan's attitude earlier. Therefore, she had cleanly rejected him the moment she heard his words.

"The price is a medicinal ingredient that is needed to refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill'." Xiao Yan said faintly.

"You have one?" Queen Medusa's pupils immediately brightened upon hearing his words.

"I have a 'Tomb Monster Needle Fruit'." Xiao Yan had brought back quite a number of medicinal ingredients from that small valley in the Magical Beast Mountain Range before he left back then. The 'Tomb Monster Needle Fruit' that was required to refine the 'Thawing Spirit Pill' was coincidentally among them.

"What thing?"

"Today, you will obey me."

"I can kill people." Queen Medusa merely mused for less than two seconds before nodding. In her heart, killing people was far more affordable compared to other things.

Xiao Yan smiled, turned around and walked through the main door. However, just as his footstep stepped through the door, a somewhat tender, furious voice was emitted from behind the door, "Who are you? Do

you really think that our Xiao clan is easy to bully?”

As he heard the voice, Xiao Yan’s footsteps could not help but pause. He turned his head and looked at the direction where the voice had sounded. Behind the main door, a tender and lovely little girl who was merely around twelve to thirteen years old was angrily looking at him with widened eyes.

“You...” Xiao Yan’s gaze slowly swept over the little girl’s body. The memories from a few years ago rose from deep within his mind. His face became a little softer as he softly said with a smile, “I recall that you are called Xiao Qing, no? Cousin Xiao Mei’s younger sister. You have actually grown so much since I last saw you two years ago.”

When she heard Xiao Yan readily call out her name, the little girl was clearly startled. Her intelligent pupils first stopped on Queen Medusa’s body for a moment. Although she was currently still young, she was still shocked at the beauty of this enchanting woman whose face was covered by a veil. She was shocked for an instant before her gaze paused on Xiao Yan’s face. The little girl eyed the faintly familiar outline while she knit her slim brows and pondered hard.

After knitting her brows and remaining deep in thought for a long while, Xiao Qing appeared to have suddenly recalled something. Her small face, which was facing Xiao Yan, turned red in an instant. Those intelligent eyes were pulsating with a pleasant surprise and excitement. A moment later, the little girl who could not control her excitement suddenly pounced on Xiao Yan.

“Xiao Yan biao-ge? It’s really you. You have finally returned!”

TL: biao-ge – to address an older male cousin

Xiao Yan took a step forward and caught the little girl who had pounced over. He smiled and rubbed Xiao Qing’s hair as he said in a gentle voice, “Little girl, after not having seen you for two years, you seem to be quickly catching up to your elder sister. You will definitely be a great beauty in the future.”

“Biao-ge, cry cry, you have finally returned. Something big has happened

in the clan. Those bad fellows are taking advantage of us. They come to the Xiao clan daily. I heard from my mother that they want to snatch our market. Recently, we don't even dare to leave our home." Xiao Qing lifted her crying, small face, which was in a mess, from Xiao Yan's chest. Her eyes were red as she weeped.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He smiled as patted Xiao Qing's back and softly said, "Alright, little girl, you don't need to be afraid. Hand all these matters to biao-ge, bring me to take a look."

"Yes, yes." Xiao Qing hurriedly nodded her small head. As Xiao Yan had helped the Xiao clan become the largest faction in the Wu Tan City in one fell swoop back then, Xiao Yan's reputation was extremely great among Xiao Qing's generation. Moreover, in these two years, the Xiao clan had also gradually expanded due to the healing medicine which Xiao Yan had left behind. Therefore, this Xiao Yan biao-ge, who had left the home to train, was pictured to have almost supernatural powers like that of a god within the hearts of these little fellows.

Xiao Yan stood up straight and watched Xiao Qing, who was bouncing around on the small path as she advanced due to her joyful mood. However, his face slowly darkened. His palm patted the Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back. The dark and cold killing intent that had suddenly risen within him caused Queen Medusa to twitch her eyebrows in surprised.

Following behind Xiao Qing, Xiao Yan's footsteps gently stepped on the small path made of rock fragments. The familiar surroundings which he was absent from for two years caused his childhood memories to slowly seep out from his mind.

Xiao Yan followed Xiao Qing and passed through a few small paths. A somewhat spacious large hall gradually appeared at the edge of his vision.

"Those bad people are inside. First Elder and the others are also inside. However, all of them are injured. Otherwise, those fellows would not dare to act so presumptuously." Xiao Qing waved her small fist toward the large hall and angrily said.

"Injured? Something has indeed happened to the clan." Xiao Yan pursed

his mouth up tightly. He stepped on the stone stairs and finally paused outside the main door which was tightly shut. As he heard the sound inside, a cold smile was gradually lifted from the corner of his mouth.

The large, spacious hall was somewhat dark and the atmosphere was somewhat gloomy. There were at least a hundred people who were packed into this large hall. These people were divided into two groups which faced each other. They were eyeing each other menacingly, appearing as though a riot was about to break out.

There were a few people seated in front of the two groups. In front of the Xiao clan's group, the three elders of the Xiao clan were seated. However, the faces of the three were currently pale. From their exterior appearance where they could not hide some Dou Qi overflowing from their bodies, it was clear that they had suffered quite a few serious internal injuries.

On the opposite of side of the people of the Xiao clan, there was a group of large men with fierce looks. There were three people in the grandmaster seat, where the leaders of the group sat. One of them was clearly the clan head of the Jia Li clan, which was once turned into a battered shape by Xiao Yan, Jia Li Hua!

Xiao Yan also knew another person. He was Aoba Padun, the clan head of one of the three large clans which had stood side by side with the Xiao clan in Wu Tan City back then, the Ao Ba clan.

The third person was a someone unfamiliar. The person was wearing an alchemist's long robe. His expression was cold and stern and his age was around fifty or more. Additionally, the most attracting thing was the cauldron badge that was drawn on the chest of this person's long robe. There were three silver-colored ripples on the badge which was gently moving as though it was a living thing.

A tier three alchemist!

In Wu Tan City, which had never even possessed an alchemist association, a tier three alchemist was someone who could cause any faction to feel a great reverence. This unfamiliar tier three alchemist was also currently the person whom the three elders of the Xiao clan had the

greatest fear of.

“These two clan leaders, our Xiao clan may have met some trouble recently, but do the both of you really think our Xiao clan is mud that can be kneaded? The marketplaces within Wu Tan City is something that our Xiao clan has worked hard to build. You want to purchase them with that low price of yours? Are you dreaming?” The second elder’s face was as dark and deep as water. His gaze swept across the group of people opposite him who were like tigers and wolves as he coldly spoke.

“Ha ha, second elder must be joking. During these two years, your Xiao clan has basically earned all the money in Wu Tan City. If this were to continue, it is likely that we wouldn’t have an alternative other than to leave this place. This place is where our roots are. If we leave, it would not be an easy matter to settle in another place. Ah, we also have no choice in order to survive. I hope you three elders can bear with us. As long as you agree with the conditions that we have put forth, our clan will not make things overly difficult for the Xiao clan in the future on the account of our past relationship. Isn’t it very good for all of us to make money together.” Aoba Padun smiled as said.

“Ten thousand gold coins for one marketplace, are you robbers?” The third elder, whose character had always been aggressive stared at Aoba Padun with red eyes. He involuntarily slammed the table as he pointed at Aoba Padun and scolded angrily.

“Third brother!” The first elder pulled the third elder who was about to stand up and softly cried, “Don’t mess up your priorities!”

The third elder sat down violently. The teacup he held in his hand was crushed until it exploded.

“Ke ke, third elder’s anger is as great as it has always been. Being angry will hurt your body.” Jia Li Hua, who has been silent suddenly laughed darkly as he said, “Unfortunately, all of you do not have any choice in the matter today. If you sell, the place will be sold. If you don’t sell, the place will also be sold!”

“Jia Li Hua, we really should not have been merciful back then. Letting

you, a dog, live.” The first elder said darkly.

“I’m sorry, there is no medicine for regret that is sold in this world.” Jia Li Hua smiled. The dark viciousness on his face caused people to feel a coldness in the heart. “Today, I, Jia Li Hua will return all the injuries that our Jia Li clan had suffered two years ago.”

“If you all really want to use force, our Xiao clan will also fight until the both of us suffer great losses.” The first elder was silent for a moment as he watched that poisonous snake-like Jia Li Hua. He then spoke in a thick voice. Currently, he could only hope that the other party was reluctant to act forcefully and choose to delay time.

“Ha ha, old bastard, what qualifications do you currently possess to fight with us? If you have the ability, go and call Xiao Zhan out? With the condition that you three old fellows are in right now, I, myself can completely finish you all off!” Jia Li Hua coldly laughed.

The corner of the first elder’s eyes twitched slightly. The first elder waved his hand, and blocked the group of furious members of the Xiao clan behind him. His gaze stared at Jia Li Hua in a cold and dark manner as he coldly said, “If you dare to touch our Xiao clan, our Xiao clan’s descendants will definitely cause you to be unable to sleep or eat peacefully. You can all await his wild revenge once he returns.”

“His?” The corner of their eyes suddenly twitched. For some unknown reason, not only did Jia Li Hua and Aoba Padun become silent, but even the hand of alchemist stranger by the side which was placed on a chair, involuntarily jumped.

A young figure slowly surfaced within everyone’s mind. Two years ago, it was this young man who was merely fifteen years old that sent the Jia Li clan, who was flourishing by the day into a deep abyss.

Two years later, that young man back then had already directly picked on the Misty Cloud Sect and even managed to leave in one piece.

It should be known that in the eyes of Jia Li Bi and these factions, the Misty Cloud Sect was like a god. Anyone from within the Misty Cloud Sect would be sufficient to sweep away all of these factions in Wu Tan City.

When they heard the rumors of the little fellow from the Xiao clan fighting against the Misty Cloud Sect for the first time, almost all the people within the entire Wu Tan City were startled for a minute. Those factions, which were enemies with the Xiao clan, even felt a chill being emitted from within their bones.

If it were not for that mysterious strong person with a background unknown to even Jia Li Hua telling him the news of Xiao Yan being quietly murdered by the Misty Cloud Sect, it was likely that Jia Li Hua would not dare to come to the Xiao clan and loot them while they were in trouble even if he had ten guts and had found a tier three alchemist to back him.

TL: Ten guts – ten times the courage?

“Hei, then you can wait. When you wait until you die, you may once again see that little bastard called Xiao Yan.” Jia Li Hua coldly laughed, planning to use this to hide his fear toward a certain someone.

“Old brother Ao, we don’t need to continue delaying. Since they refuse to agree, then we should directly take action. The monopoly of the Xiao clan during these few years has nearly caused us to be bankrupt. We can no longer be courteous.” Jia Li Hua turned his head and spoke in a grave voice to Aoba Padun.

“Ah, since you three elders do not show any understanding of the situation you are in, don’t blame me for not showing any feelings.” Aoba Padun sighed regretfully. He waved his hand and ten plus large men behind him immediately drew their weapons from their waists with a ‘clang’ sound. They stared at the members of the Xiao clan on the opposite side with faces full of killing intent.

“Since you wish to finish all of us off, then our Xiao clan will cause you all to suffer even if we were to fight until there is one man left!” The first elder, who had been suppressing himself, suddenly smashed his hand heavily on the table as he finally erupted. He abruptly stood up and angrily shouted.

“First elder, the Xiao clan does not have any cowards who will flee! Let’s fight to the death with them!” Behind him, ten plus members of the Xiao

clan had faces which were flushed red due to anger.

“As long as we can withstand it until the Young Clan Leader of the Xiao clan returns, we will be able to take back the grievances that we have endured today!” The first elder grasp out some coarse air as he clenched his teeth and cried out.

Young Clan Leader. This form of address represented the approval of the elders in the clan toward a certain future successor of the Xiao clan. The news that had be spread from the Misty Cloud Sect caused every member of the Xiao clan to feel proud of the clan member called Xiao Yan. This included the three elders who had looked down on him back then.

“I’m sorry, but you may not have that opportunity. Back then, Xiao Yan killed my student. Today, I will let your Xiao clan die with him.” That alchemist who had been silent suddenly stood up and said in a hoarse voice.

The alchemist slowly raised his head as his gaze slowly swept across everyone of the Xiao clan. He said faintly, “I forgot to inform you that my student is Liu Xi, who had helped the Jia Li clan create healing medicine back then.”

As the alchemist’s words slowly fell, a strong force that was at least a six star Da Dou Shi suddenly erupted from within his body. Under the pressure of this force, the first elder and the others who were already seriously injured hurriedly took a few steps back. Their expressions were a little pale.

“Kill them! Don’t let anyone live!” Jia Li Hua coldly smiled as he said in a dark, thick voice while watching the furious eyes of the members of the Xiao clan.

“It seems that the heavens want our Xiao clan to parish today.” A mouthful of fresh blood was spilled out of the corner of the first elder’s mouth as he watched that group of people who were grinning fiercely as they surrounded them. His expression was filled with hopelessness and gloominess.

“Squeak.”

Just as all the members of the Xiao clan decided to put up a desperate fight with their lives, the clear sound of a door being pushed open suddenly interrupted the massacre that was about to erupt.

The door was slowly pushed open and an eye-piercing sunlight followed the gap of the door as it crept in until it finally reached the other side of the hall.

Everyone in the large hall turned their heads toward the main door. The figure of a skinny young man was slowly walking in from there.

“I’m sorry that I have returned late.”

The young man’s faint apologetic voice appeared.

Hearing this faintly familiar voice, the first elder was initially startled. Immediately, his tightened body completely relaxed. Two drops of turbid tears of excitement moved along his old face and rolled down.

Chapter 358: Leave No One

Following the sunlit path that was extended from the gap of the door, the skinny figure of a young man slowly walked in. He passed by those large men whose hands were carrying weapons as though they weren't present. Finally, he slowly passed by the side of Jia Bi Lie and Aoba Padun whose faces were filled with dullness.

The atmosphere was so quiet, that even the crows and sparrows dared not to create noise. Only the sound of slightly hurried breathing could be heard.

Under everyone's gaze, the young man slowly came to the front of everyone of the Xiao clan. He lowered his head, eyed the old man, who was so excited that he was in tears, and bowed slightly.

"Xiao... Xiao Yan." Under the support from the clan members behind him, the first elder excitedly looked at the young and handsome face in front of him, which had a little less immaturity and more rigid lines compared to two years ago. His voice trembled involuntarily as he said, "Is it really you?"

Xiao Yan lifted his head, and eyed the old face which he had always wanted to stomp violently on in the past. He smiled and nodded, feeling a lament within his heart. After two years of training, he had indeed become much more mature. The grudges that he had held back then had also paled with the flow of time. No matter how one wanted to put it, this clan of his had a blood relationship that was difficult to erase.

"First elder, it really is young master Xiao Yan!"

"Young master Xiao Yan is back! Our Xiao clan is saved!" The faces of the members of the Xiao clan who were supporting the first elder revealed a wild joy. They were so excited that their mouths could no longer say the words they wanted to speak.

As they inspected Xiao Yan's face, they could still see some familiar outlines from two years ago, the members of the Xiao clan, whose spirits were extremely strained for the past two days, finally sighed as though

they had been released from a heavy burden. Immediately, a joyful atmosphere replaced the earlier hopelessness. Some of those who had weaker mental strength could not resist emitting a joyful cry.

The second and third elder glanced at each other. Their hearts quietly sighed in relief. Their gazes stared at the indifferent, smiling, young, and handsome face and nodded their heads in a gratified manner. After two years of training, this eye piercing younger generation of the clan who failed to show any restraint had finally discovered how to weaken his vigor.

Something which was too stiff was easy to break. Overly revealing one's power was not completely a good thing. Hiding a precious sword in its case and using the sword's aura in secret was the right way.

Compared to the cheers of everyone in the Xiao clan, Jia Bi Lie's group on the opposite side, which originally had an overbearing manner had their flame instantly extinguished. Everyone looked at each other. The hands of those who were tightly holding weapons could not resist trembling. During these few days, almost everyone in Wu Tan City had heard at least ten different versions of the shocking incident of Xiao Yan having a big fight with the Misty Cloud Sect. Everyone's heart was filled with reverence for this person who was like a legendary figure. Now that the legendary person had appeared alive in front of them, it was little wonder why these people who were overflowing with killing intent would feel terror.

"Jia Bi Lie, you bastard. Didn't you say that Xiao Yan had already been quietly killed by the Misty Cloud Sect? Why is he alive now?" Aoba Padun's eyes stared at the skinny back which was facing him. A fear that was difficult to hide flashed across his eyes. His face was green as he turned his body around and grabbed Jia Bi Lie by the collar and let out a soft, angry roar. There was a slight tremble in his voice.

Jia Bi Lie's sight was similarly pasted on the back in front of him. The corner of his mouth repeatedly trembled. His legs had also become a little numb at this moment. He swallowed his saliva with great difficulty. His originally dark and vicious face had begun to sob a little. "How would I

know. That person clearly told me that Xiao Yan had already been killed. With his strength, he doesn't need to lie to me, a clan leader of a small clan, did he?"

"Don't tell me that the person in front is Xiao Yan who had climbed out from the grave?" Aoba Padun clenched his teeth and said angrily. Although part of the reason he had agreed to deal with the Xiao clan, which was in a battered shape, after Jia Bi Lie pressured him was because of the fact that he had indeed been suppressed by the Xiao clan in an overly hard manner for two years. The greater part of the reason was because Jia Bi Lie had said that Xiao Yan was quietly killed by the strong people of the Misty Cloud Sect. It was this that caused him to nod his head and put up a fight against the Xiao Clan.

It should be known just how shocked his heart was when he first heard that little fellow of the Xiao clan had actually managed to leave in one piece after having a huge fight with the large being known as the Misty Cloud Sect.

It was due to this that he nodded and agreed half-believingly after Jia Bi Lie swore under the most vicious curse.

After agreeing, the delayed return of Xiao Yan caused Aoba Padun to increase his trust in Jia Bi Lie's words. However, just as he thought that everything he needed was about to fall into his hands, that Xiao Yan who, according to what Jia Bi Lie had said, should have been killed, appeared in front of him. This kind of blow, and the terror that the human figure brought him, caused Aoba Padun to immediately descend into a furious and shocked state.

Jia Bi Lie's expression was pale. The current him was now in a state where his entire body was ice cold.

The throat of the tier three alchemist rolled a little as his eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan. His face was volatile. The powerful force that had erupted before had also become much more sluggish.

"Three elders, are you all fine?" Xiao Yan's back was facing those people whose expressions were different from one another as he eyed the three

pale-faced elders and asked softly.

“I’m fine.” The first elder struggled to stand up. He shook his head and immediately bowed slowly toward Xiao Yan in a solemn manner. However, when he had bowed half way down, a hand supported him back up. When he lifted his head, he saw a young face that contained a gentle smile. Immediately, his old eyes involuntarily became tearful.

“First elder, you are a senior. You cannot treat Xiao Yan in this manner. Otherwise, if Father were to see this, I’m afraid that he is going to blame me.” Xiao Yan smiled as he softly said.

“The few of us old fellows were overboard in the past. In the future, I, using my status as the first elder, guarantee you that those things in the past will never repeat themselves again.” The first elder tilted his head, rubbed the corner of his eyes which was somewhat moist and sighed to Xiao Yan.

“Ke ke, the young me back then was also not very likable. Moreover, the matter is already over. I am a person who is quite forgetful.” Xiao Yan smiled and shrugged his shoulders. The moment when he had once again stepped into this clan, he knew that no matter what happened, his own blood belonged to this clan. At the very least, before he had become a useless person, this clan had given him a perfect childhood.

Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over the familiar faces of the clan members behind the three elders. He smiled and said, “But now, I think that we should first settle the trouble here before we reminisce the good times.”

“Child, be careful. Jia Bi Lie and Aoba Padun are already five stars Da Dou Shis while that old man is the teacher of Liu Ling back then. He is a tier three alchemist and possesses the strength of a six star Da Dou Shi.” The first elder nodded and warned softly.

Xiao Yan smiled slightly and slowly turned around. The smile on his face gradually turned dark and cold as he turned toward Jia Bi Lie and the others.

“I have not seen you for two years, but Clan Leader Jia Bi Lie’s infamy is not any less than back then.” Xiao Yan gaze slowly swept past the groups

of people on both sides before finally setting his gaze on Jia Bi Lie's body as he smiled and said.

Jia Bi Lie's gaze stared intently at the face which still had the outline of the youth from two years ago. His body involuntarily shuddered. He swallowed his saliva as said in a trembling voice, "Ke ke, nephew Xiao Yan. It is really unexpected to be able to see you again."

Xiao Yan smiled slightly. He carelessly pulled out a chair from behind him and sat down with a big posture in front of everyone. His hand grasped the ruler's hilt and drew it fiercely. The heavy ruler carried a ferocious force as it slammed into the hard rock floor. Immediately, numerous tiny crack lines began to spread out from the point where the ruler landed.

"Clan Leader Ao Ba, I didn't expect that you would also be here." As Xiao Yan spoke his gaze turned toward Aoba Padun's by the side, whose expression was changing continuously.

"Ah? Oh, ke ke ke, it has been two years since I have seen you. Nephew Xiao Yan's bearing is becoming increasingly extraordinary. It is really true that a tiger father doesn't have a dog son. If old brother Xiao were to see you, he would definitely be so happy that he cannot close his mouth." Aoba Padun's entire body trembled when he heard Xiao Yan's voice. He hurriedly accompanied Xiao Yan in laughing.

TL: a tiger father doesn't have a dog son – means that someone strong/great does not have a child who is a weakling/useless fellow

"You can swallow your nonsense." Xiao Yan glanced faintly at him. His hand slowly rubbed the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand. His voice had quietly become dense, "I only want to know exactly what the two of you want to do by bringing your people to my Xiao clan."

"Ah? That... that... ha ha. Nephew Xiao Yan, the matter today is entirely a misunderstanding. We came over because we heard that the Xiao clan had met some trouble. Therefore, we took the time to come over to take a look. You should also know that we have quite a number of areas where we are cooperating with the Xiao clan. It is only natural that we have to

come over and show concern now that something has happened to the Xiao clan.” Aoba Padun’s expression once again paled a little as he hurriedly spoke with a smile upon hearing the thick and cold killing intent hidden in Xiao Yan’s voice.

Beside him, Jia Bi Lie’s expression was alternating abruptly between white and green.

“Is that so?”

Xiao Yan lowered his head and laughed. His head was suddenly lifted. Those dark black pupils were like sharp knives, coldly staring at Aoba Padun and Jia Bi Lie. A soft, muffled sound suddenly appeared in the silent atmosphere. Immediately, a hot, green-colored flame surged out of Xiao Yan’s body without any warning. In seconds, the temperature in the hall suddenly rose. Those Xiao clan members who were a close distance to Xiao Yan hurriedly pulled back.

“If the two of you are plotting something against our Xiao clan, then the both of you need not leave today.” Xiao Yan’s voice was incomparably icy, as the green-colored flame shrouded his entire body.

As Aoba Padun, Jia Bi Lie, and the tier three alchemist watched the green-colored flame rising from within Xiao Yan’s body with dry mouths, terror appeared on their faces as they took two steps back.

“Nephew Xiao Yan, don’t misunderstand. I do not have even the least bit of bad thoughts toward the Xiao clan. Today’s matter is entirely a misunderstanding. I will now leave immediately!” Aoba Padun swallowed a mouthful of saliva. His voice had become a little sharp due to his fear.

After saying this, he hurriedly waved his hand. Ten plus large men carrying weapons hurriedly neared toward him. After which, the group of people carefully withdrew out of the large hall.

“Junior Clan Leader? You cannot let him leave. These two days, quite a number of our clan members were injured by them. Some of them even...” As he eyed Aoba Padun who was withdrawing, the third elder, who had an impatient character, could not resist saying. Before he could say all that he wanted to, however, he was stopped by a wave of Xiao Yan’s hand.

Immediately, he could only swallow the words in his mouth and pulled back. Seeing this manner of his, it was clear that he had already truly treated Xiao Yan as the mainstay which was supporting this clan.

“You.” Seeing Aoba Padun who actually wanted to pull out in such a manner, Jia Bi Lie was startled. His face twitched slightly. His body was stiffened for an instant before he hurriedly turned his body around. He faced Xiao Yan who was seated on the chair and spoke to the calmed face Xiao Yan with a flattering smile, “Nephew Xiao Yan, today’s matter is entirely a misunderstanding. In the future, I will definitely personally pay a visit to apologize. There are still other matters in my clan today, goodbye.”

Once he finished speaking, he hurriedly waved his hand turned around and lead his subordinates away quickly.

The face of the tier three alchemist turned green as he eyed Jia Bi Lie and Aoba Padun who were both leading their subordinates and fleeing in an embarrassing manner. Although his heart was also a little afraid of Xiao Yan’s reputation, his haughtiness as an alchemist did not allow him to leave like a dog which had lost its home. Immediately, he clenched his teeth and cried out sternly, “All of you stop. The Xiao clan is currently in a battered shape. Are you all reduced to such a state just because of a little fellow? What face will you have to survive in Wu Tan City in the future?”

Upon hearing the alchemist’s cry, Jia Bi Lie and Aoba Padun paused their footsteps. After their thoughts had hesitated for an instant, however, a horrible shriek sounded in the large hall. The two of them could not resist turning their heads and taking a look, only to shockingly see the tier three alchemist being wrapped by a seven-colored energy film at the moment. Moreover, a seven-colored liquid was actually repeatedly being dripped from the energy film. The seven-colored liquid appeared to possess extremely strong corrosive properties. When each drop of liquid fell onto the alchemist body, it would bring about blood-curdling scream.

Under the numerous shocked gazes in the large hall, the body of the tier three alchemist was being corroded at a speed visible to the naked eye. After ten plus seconds, the seven-colored liquid had already filled half the energy film. Within it, the alchemist’s body and even his bones were

completely corroded.

“Gulp.” The extremely miserable state in which the tier three alchemist died caused the throats of the people in the large hall to involuntarily roll.

“Clang,” The energy film abruptly burst apart. The seven-colored liquid gushed out and slowly began to merge into a graceful lovely body in front of everyone’s sight. A moment later, a bewitching beauty appeared in the large hall. She lifted her beautiful pupils lightly. The denseness within them would cause the body of anyone who had come into contact with them to shiver.

Jia Bi Lie’s and Aoba Padun’s teeth trembled as they watched that bewitching beauty. At this moment, a name which nearly caused one to be paralyzed surfaced in their hearts.

“Queen... Queen Medusa.”

“Nephew Xiao Yan, goodbye. Today’s matter was definitely a misunderstanding.”

Jia Bi Lie cupped his trembling hands toward Xiao Yan who was quietly seated in the chair like a wooden pillar. Jia Bi Lie and Aoba Padun finally could not resist the terror in their hearts. They lead their subordinates and swarmed out in an embarrassing manner. They had already made a decision. Once they left this place, they would immediately pack up their things and go to somewhere far from Wu Tan City!

As he watched Jia Bi Lie and the others who were swarming out of the large hall in a panicked manner, Xiao Yan, who had remained quiet, finally waved his hand gently. His calm voice caused everyone in the Xiao clan to feel an excitement extenuating from a great satisfaction.

“Leave no one!”

When Xiao Yan’s voice fell, the figure of Queen Medusa in the hall slowly became illusionary. That large doors to the hall let out a ‘bang’ and was tightly shut. Quickly following this, horrible cries repeatedly sounded outside the door.

Chapter 359: He Must Die!

The atmosphere was so quiet in the spacious hall that not even the parrots or sparrows made a noise. All the members of the Xiao clan clenched their fists tightly as they heard the numerous blood-curdling screams coming from outside the door. There was great satisfaction on their faces. The recent turn of events of the Xiao clan had caused their hearts to be filled with grievances. Now that Xiao Yan had returned, he had finally pulled the entire clan, which was about to reach its end, up. The grievances which they had experienced during the last few days were currently disappearing with each horrible scream from beyond the door.

The horrible screams outside continued for less than a minute before they gradually fell silent. As the blood-curdling screams came to an end, the gazes within the large hall began to once again gather on the back of Xiao Yan, who was quietly seated on a chair with his back facing them. At this moment, there was some additional fanaticism and respect within those gazes.

“Junior Clan Leader.” The first elder took one excited step forward and broke the silence of the large hall.

“First elder, just call me Xiao Yan. I really don’t have the right to be called the ‘Junior Clan Leader’.” Xiao Yan slowly stood up from his seat, turned around, smiled and replied in a soft tone.

The first elder was slightly startled as he saw the smiling face which was completely different from the stern face that had been filled with killing intent earlier. Immediately, he nodded with a smile, “Currently, in this Xiao clan, your words are able to represent the orders of the clan leader.”

“Father will not agree to that.” Xiao Yan shook his head and joked. He flicked his finger gently and ten plus small jade bottle appeared on the table, “These are some healing medicines to treat internal injuries. Let those clan members who are injured consume them first.”

Hearing this, the first elder hurriedly nodded his head. He waved his hand and two clan members stepped forward. They took the jade bottles

and began distributing them in the proper order.

Xiao Yan watched those who had consumed the healing medicine before he grabbed the Heavy Xuan Ruler with one hand and carelessly placed it on his back. After which, he walked out of the large hall.

“Creak.” Xiao Yan pulled the door open, and sunlight came pouring in. The warm sunlight expelled all of the gloominess that had shrouded the large hall.

Xiao Yan stepped passed the threshold of the door. His gaze glanced around his surroundings. The expected scene of corpses all over the place did not appear. Only Queen Medusa was lazily leaning on a willow tree under the shine of the sunlight. Her delicate hand was randomly playing with an emerald green leaf. Her beautiful, curvy figure was reflected on the ground, moving slightly and appeared extremely attractive.

Seeing Xiao Yan coming out, Queen Medusa lifted her head and glanced at him. She said faintly, “Neither the corpses nor the bones remain, not one of them is left. Remember, that ‘Tomb Monster Needle Fruit’ is mine.”

“This woman is indeed very vicious.” Xiao Yan sighed in his heart. He nodded his head before turning to look at the members of the Xiao clan who had followed behind him and come out. Currently, they had shocked expressions as they swept over the empty ground in front of them. Due to terror of the bewitching woman not far away, however, even the third elder, who had a bad temper, did not dare to take the initiative to open his mouth and ask.

“In the future, Wu Tan City will no longer have the Jia Li clan and the Aoba clan.” Xiao Yan’s voice caused the members of the Xiao clan to sigh in relief.

“That’s right.” Xiao Yan appeared to have recalled something. He frowned slightly and asked in a deep voice, “First elder, where are the other members of the Xiao clan? The Xiao clan does not appear to only have these few people, right?”

“Ke ke, you need not worry. If there are only these few people left in the Xiao clan, what face would I have when I go meet our ancestors?” The first

elder shook his head with a smile and explained, "I have already expected that there will be people who will loot us in our miserable state. Therefore, I have arranged for the dependants of the clan to move to the mountain behind in advance. There are also quite a number of clan members who are quite strong protecting them there."

Xiao Yan only sighed in relief upon hearing this. He turned his head around as he watched a small head which had squeezed out from the crowd. At this moment, this pretty little girl who had tied a ponytail was staring intently at Xiao Yan with a pair of large watery eyes which were filled with such worship that small stars nearly appeared.

"Little girl, go to the mountain behind and call the clan members out. Biao-ge is back. Nothing will happen to the Xiao clan." Xiao Yan waved his hand to Xiao Qing and spoke with a smile.

TL: Biao-ge – older cousin brother

Upon hearing Xiao Yan's order, Xiao Qing quickly squeezed out of the human crowd. She gave a crisp response before bouncing around and cheering as she ran toward the back of the Xiao clan's home. Along the way, a little girl's 'hee hee' laughter repeatedly rang out. The biao-ge in her heart which she thought could do anything did not disappoint her. Even a difficult problem which had caused the elders of the clan to be helpless was completely settled by him in less than an hour.

Xiao Yan let out a long sigh. He turned his head and watched the first elder. "Now, first elder, can you tell me all the things that have recently happened to the Xiao clan in detail?"

"Ah." Upon hearing Xiao Yan's words, the face of the first elder, which was originally carrying a smile, immediately became bitter. He sighed softly, turned his head and waved his hand. After dismissing the clan members to tidy up the Xiao clan which was a complete mess, he then turned around, faced Xiao Yan and said, "Come in and we'll talk."

As he spoke, he took the lead by turning around and walking into the hall. The second and third elder exchanged glances and followed closely with similarly gloomy faces.

Eyeing the other three's manner, Xiao Yan's finger shook slightly as he lifted his feet and followed.

The four of them once again walked into the hall. At the moment, the slightly messy place had already been swiftly cleaned up by the members of the Xiao clan. The four of them sat down successively and the clan members by the side hurriedly brought hot tea.

Xiao Yan's hands held the teacup, feeling the warmth that gradually seeped into his body. He glanced at the solemn face of the first elder and softly said, "Tell me, what happened?"

The first elder nodded his head. He was just about to open his mouth when he shut it. His gaze stopped on the chair beside Xiao Yan. The latter followed the gaze and slowly turned his head only to realize that Queen Medusa had already sat there with a calm face since an unknown point in time.

"You don't need to be bothered about her. Just speak." Xiao Yan shook his head and said.

The first elder nodded his head with a bitter smile and sighed, "Ever since you have left Wu Tan City, our Xiao clan, with the help of the large number of healing medicine which you left behind, gradually strengthened our position within Wu Tan City. Although the Jia Li clan and the Aoba clan thought of uniting and suppressing the Xiao clan during this period of time, our Xiao clan held out one time after another with the support from Ya Fei xiao-jie. As the profits that the Xiao clan gained from the selling of healing medicine during these two years became overly large, it also resulted in our conflict with the Jia Li and Aoba clans to become increasingly intense. Three months before you returned, they finally could not resist and began using hard force. It was fortunate, however, that the strength of the Xiao clan had soared greatly during these two years. In terms of pure force, even with the union of their two clans, they were unable to obtain much benefit."

TL: xiao-jie – refer to a daughter of a certain well off clan (unmarried)

"But..." After speaking to this point, the expression of the first elder

suddenly became volatile. He tightened his fist. A 'crunch' sound caused Xiao Yan to be aware of just what kind of fury was currently being hidden in the heart of the first elder.

"Just three days ago, the Xiao clan received its most tragic blow."

The corner of Xiao Yan's eyes twitched as he slowly sipped a mouthful of tea.

"It was late in the night when the defence of the Xiao clan was at its weakest. Three mysterious black-robed men who exceeded everyone's expectations suddenly came descending from the sky. Although they did not take the initiative to hurt people, they damaged the Xiao clan until it was in a complete mess. The damage they caused alerted the entire Xiao clan. The Clan Leader was extremely furious. He led the strong people of the Xiao clan, wanting to stop them. However, the strength of the other side was far too terrifying. The three of us did not even last one exchange against the black-robed person who was the leader before we were all seriously injured. All of us knew that the person had held back. Otherwise, the three of us would definitely not have lived from that one strike." The first elder's old body trembled slightly as he lowered his head and said.

"Crack." A clear sound suddenly appeared. The first elder and the others hurriedly lifted their heads only to see that Xiao Yan's expression had abruptly become very ugly. The teacup in his hand had already been kneaded until it shattered. Powder mixed with tea was moving along the gap between his fingers and dripping down.

"Where is father?" Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the three elders. His breathing was rapid and his voice was somewhat hoarse.

Hearing this, the expression of the first elder and other two elder's became gloomy as they shook their heads bitterly.

"Father is not in the mountain behind?" Xiao Yan's expression was so ugly that it was a little frightening. He eyed the three elders whose faces were filled with bitterness. Suddenly, he stood up and a roar was emitted from his throat, "Tell me!"

"The three mysterious black-robed man had come after the Clan Leader.

The Clan Leader also seemed to be aware of their intention. Therefore, in order to avoid any injuries or death of the clan members, he alone diverted the three mysterious people away and until now, he has yet to return.” The first elder gritted his teeth and said with a bitter smile.

“Bang!”

A ferocious Qi abruptly erupted from within the large hall. The table at Xiao Yan’s side was directly burst apart at this moment. The clan members in the large hall who had moved back and forth as they cleaned up the place stiffened their bodies as they eyed the ferocious faced Xiao Yan who sat in the middle of the hall.

“Do you have information on the three mysterious people?” Xiao Yan’s body was wrapped around a hot green colored flame. His voice was currently like those that had come from the afterworld. Within the iciness, there was a wild killing intent.

“No.” The first elder clenched his teeth, stared at the high temperature that was pouncing toward him and shook his head bitterly.

“Although we do not know the exact condition of the Clan Leader, we can still at the very least determine that his life is currently not in danger.” The first elder suddenly pulled out an ancient box carefully from his chest pocket. He opened it and an emerald-colored jade appeared within it. A spot of light was slowly swimming at the middle of the jade piece, as though it possessed a spirituality.

The first elder cautiously picked up the jade piece. He studied it in detail before sighing in relief. With a soft voice, he said, “This jade piece was left behind by the ancestors of our Xiao clan. Each Clan Leader will leave a little spiritual energy within it. If the clan leader dies, this swimming spot of light will disappear along with him. Seeing that the spiritual light spot is currently still very strong, I think that he should not be in any danger of dying.”

The words of the first elder caused Xiao Yan’s heart, which was like a volcano that had erupted, to calm down a little. He received the jade piece from the first elder and gently stroked it.

“Can it tell me the current position of father?” Xiao Yan’s voice was dark and cold as he asked.

“It cannot.” The first elder shook with a bitter smile.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of cool air. He slowly shut his eyes which were filled with killing intent. The wild killing intent in his heart was affecting his reasoning, which was about to reach its limit.

“There are traces of energy left behind by people of the Misty Cloud Sect within the three of them.” Queen Medusa, who was seated quietly by the side, suddenly glanced faintly at Xiao Yan and said, “It is a little like the First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect.”

Xiao Yan’s closed eyes were suddenly opened. A dark and cold killing intent that even caused Queen Medusa to be startled slowly seeped out of Xiao Yan’s body. He lifted his head slightly. That delicate and handsome face was now completely filled with ferociousness and madness.

“This time, he must die! Whoever stops me will die!”

Chapter 360: Settling the Xiao Clan

The wild killing intent seeped out of Xiao Yan's body within the large hall. Everyone was so nervous and frightened that they stopped what they were doing. They eyed that savage face and did not dare to emit the slightest sound.

"Junior Clan Leader, those three mysterious people were from the Misty Cloud Sect?" The expression of the first elder was slightly ugly as he softly asked.

Xiao Yan inhaled a breath of air and forcefully suppressed the killing intent that was rising from within his heart. He nodded slightly and said in a dark and cold voice, "Since she has said that your bodies have the remanent energy of Yun Leng within them, then it naturally cannot be false. Moreover, my clan had encountered this kind of surprise attack not long after I left the Misty Cloud Sect. How can the Misty Cloud Sect be unrelated to this matter?"

"What does Junior Clan Leader plan to do?" The first elder bitterly laughed. In front of such a strong faction like the Misty Cloud Sect, the first elder was a little at a loss on what to do.

"I have already said that he must die this time around!" Xiao Yan said in a thick voice.

"Ah." The first elder let out a sigh. He eyed Xiao Yan, whose face was filled with killing intent, before musing for a while. He then said, "Junior Clan Leader, although I do not know the status of that mysterious person in the Misty Cloud Sect, I don't think that it should be low from the looks of his strength, no?"

"Other than the Sect Leader and a few others, his position should be the highest in the Misty Cloud Sect."

"As expected. Ah." The first elder shook his head as he mused out loud, "Earlier, the reason that the Junior Clan Leader had gotten into a big fight with the Misty Cloud Sect was because of the Three Years Agreement. Moreover, you did not cause much harm to the upper echelons in the

Misty Cloud Sect during that time. Therefore, the Misty Cloud Sect does not really hate you. If you were to kill this mysterious strong person this time around, the relationship between both parties would become completely unresolvable.”

“Then first elder, do you mean to have me to ignore my father’s life or death?” Xiao Yan frowned slightly. His voice was a little dark and solemn.

“Junior Clan Leader has misunderstood what I meant.” The first elder laughed bitterly before sighing, “I am just trying to tell Junior Clan Leader that if you were to really kill that mysterious person, the relationship between the Xiao clan and the Misty Cloud Sect would completely deteriorate.”

“The last time, due to the Three Years Agreement between Nalan Yanran and you, they were disadvantaged in that they were in the wrong. Therefore, they did not really dare to touch the Xiao clan. Of course, the turn of events regarding the three mysterious strong people from the Misty Cloud Sect is beyond everyone’s expectations. This time around, however, if you were to kill the person who holds quite a high position in the Misty Cloud Sect, I’m afraid that the Misty Cloud Sect will really send people to attack the Xiao clan.”

“My intention in saying all this is not to stop Junior Clan Leader from going to rescue the Clan Leader. It is just that I want to let Junior Clan Leader to assume the post of the temporary Clan Leader and think of a complete method in order to preserve the Xiao clan’s bloodline should an unavoidable conflict with the Misty Cloud Sect occur when rescuing the Clan Leader. This clan is something that the Clan Leader has spent a painstaking effort on. I think that Junior Clan Leader is also unwilling to see it decay like this.”

The dark solemnness gradually disappeared from Xiao Yan’s face. He nodded his head. The words of the first elder were not completely without reason. The current Xiao clan was not a faction that was in the same league as the Misty Cloud Sect. It was extremely easy for the other party to destroy the Xiao clan if they wanted to. If he were to really kill Yun Leng, he would definitely raise the fury of the Misty Cloud Sect. When that time

came, the Xiao clan would also have difficulty not getting involved. Therefore, if he wanted to go to the Misty Cloud Sect to search for his father, he must first think of a way for the Xiao clan to escape.

Xiao Yan quietly sat back down onto his chair. He closed his eyes slightly as his finger gently tapped on the table.

Everyone in the hall took the initiative to remain quiet as they watched Xiao Yan, who had become silent. One by one, numerous gazes focused intently on the black-robed young man. At this moment, his every action affected the entire clan's safety.

Xiao Yan's tapping finger abruptly paused. He opened his eyes and swept his gaze slowly across those clan members around him. Finally, he stopped on the faces of the three elders. His tone was resolute. "No matter what, we must definitely search for Father, even if the price is to completely infuriating the Misty Cloud Sect."

The three elders exchanged glances before immediately facing Xiao Yan and slowly asking, "What about the Xiao clan?"

"The Xiao clan is the painstaking effort of father and grandfather. I will not watch it decay." Xiao Yan eyes narrowed. He suddenly stood up and his eyes stared intently at the three elders. In a deep voice, he said, "May I know if my words have any authority within the current Xiao clan?"

"It does!" The faces of the three elders were startled. They hesitated for an instant before giving a united reply with grim faces. At this moment, only Xiao Yan, in front of them, had the ability to pull the Xiao clan, which was in a devastated state, up from the mire it was in.

"What about all of you?" Xiao Yan suddenly turned around and shouted as he eyed the clan members who were standing by the door.

"We will follow Junior Clan Leader's order!"

Xiao Yan, who had just returned to the Xiao clan for a short while, had already built a position that was difficult to shake within the Xiao clan after the cold-blooded method which he had used to kill Jia Li Bi and the others. When they heard his cry, those clan members almost immediately

roared out loud with flushed faces. They similarly knew that at this life and death moment, the young man in front of them, who was once the useless person of the Xiao clan, was their only savior!

“Alright!”

Xiao Yan nodded his head and let out a deep cry. He turned around and walked toward the seat where his father had once sat in the past. He brushed his robe and sat down. His gaze looked around the entire place and said with a bang, “I plan to move the Xiao clan from Wu Tan City.”

A commotion immediately broke out in the hall the moment these words were said. The Xiao clan possessed no less than ten marketplaces within Wu Tan City. The value of these marketplaces was quite a large amount of money when added together. If they were to just leave like this, would they not suffer a great loss?

Xiao Yan gently waved his hand and the commotion in the hall slowly ceased. He said in a deep voice, “Everyone should know that the matter of the Clan Leader being missing is definitely related to the Misty Cloud Sect. Although the strength of the Misty Cloud Sect is very large, must the courageous and strong men in our Xiao clan allow them to bully us? If this matter were to spread, won’t others point at our noses and ridicule us for being spineless?”

“Tell me, rescue the Clan Leader and offend the Misty Cloud Sect, or hide in Wu Tan City like a tortoise, allowing others to point at us and say that we have cast aside our pride. What would you choose?” Xiao Yan’s eyes widened and he cried out sternly.

“Rescue the Clan Leader! Our Xiao clan doesn’t have any tortoises!” An astringent, tender voice suddenly sounded from outside the main door. Xiao Qing’s small head was squeezed out from behind. Her small face was so excited that it was flushed red while she waved her small fist and cried out loud.

“That’s right. Rescue the Clan Leader. We don’t want to be tortoises.” Another few tender voice sounded. Human heads surged around the main door as ten plus children, whose ages were but twelve to thirteen squeezed

in and shouted loudly.

“So what if it’s the Misty Cloud Sect? Our Xiao clan has never offended them, but they damaged our Xiao clan in such a manner. They even almost caused us to be tragically exterminated. Junior Clan Leader, I will obey you!” A member of the Xiao clan with a sturdy build eyed the outraged younger generation and hot blood also surged wildly in his heart. He could not resist taking a step forward as he cried out with a flushed face.

“That’s right. Young Clan Leader, we will all listen you you!” After the first person, a chain reaction appeared to have spread at the back. One by one, the Xiao clan’s men waved their fists and shouted with faces that were flushed red with anger. Being humbled time and time again during this period of time had really caused them to have difficulty enduring. Now that the Xiao clan finally had a backbone, they did not want that kind of humiliation to repeat itself, even if the price was to anger the strongest faction within the Jia Ma Empire!

“Ke ke, Junior Clan Leader, since everyone is willing to obey you, why don’t you tell us your plan.” The first elder watched the clan members’ excited faces before turning toward Xiao Yan as he smiled and said in a gratified manner.

“I plan to send the clan members out of Wu Tan City out in batches. After which, I will let each of them head to the western region of the Jia Ma Empire. The strength of the Misty Cloud Sect there is a little weaker. Moreover, my two elder brothers, Xiao Ding and Xiao Li, are expanding and developing their own power at a rapid pace there. I want to secretly send the clan members there. In this way, we can eliminate the threat the Misty Cloud Sect poses to the Xiao clan.” Xiao Yan slowly said.

“Go to the western region of the empire?” The first elder was momentarily stunned upon hearing this. He said with hesitation, “So far?”

“The western region of the empire is near the Tager Desert. Only at that place is the strength of the Misty Cloud Sect a little weaker. It is also very easy to expose ourselves in other places. In the future, our relationship

with the Misty Cloud Sect might become extremely terrible. Therefore, we must first make preparations for the worst.” Xiao Yan said.

“From now on, first elder, you will begin to sort out all the things in the Xiao clan. We will bring all the valuables that we can. As for the ten plus marketplace, I will let the Primer Auction house manage them. After that, all the profits from it will be shared with them. With my relationship with the Primer clan, we don’t need to worry if they will reveal our whereabouts.”

“Yes!” The first elder nodded his head to accept the order. He hesitated for a moment and asked, “When do we begin to leave?”

“It’s best not to drag this matter. We will begin leaving in batches tonight. The clan’s family members and those in the younger generation who cannot fight will leave first. There must be some clan members who are quite strong protecting them along the way. Remember, our rendezvous point is Rock Desert City located in the western region of the Jia Ma Empire. When you arrive there, find the ‘Desert Metal Mercenary Company’!” Xiao Yan said, making a prompt decision on the spot.

“Additionally, I will lead people to clear out the remnants of the Jia Li and Aoba clan during these two days to divert everyone’s attention within the city. I will need you three elders to settle those cumbersome matters regarding leaving in batches.”

“Yes!” The three elders replied in unison.

“Additionally...”

Xiao Yan was seated on the leader’s seat in the hall. His expression was solemn as he methodically issued orders. That calmness that stood firm even as a storm approached caused some of the younger generation of the Xiao clan to be in a slight trance. Was this still the little fellow who had been quiet and kept a low profile back then?

Compared to those older clan members, Xiao Qing and the others of the younger generation were eyeing Xiao Yan with faces full of worship. Under his command, vigor and fighting spirit had once again burst out of the Xiao clan, which had originally fallen into a panic.

Queen Medusa quietly sat in the chair. Her delicate hand held a warm tea cup and carelessly sipped it. Her eyes would show some surprise when she occasionally glanced at Xiao Yan seated on the leader's seat. In hardly any time, he had actually completely stabilized his clan in which the members' hearts had been scattered. It must be said that such ability and mentality far exceeded an ordinary person. No wonder even Pill-King Gu He was also played by this fellow back in the desert.

After the final clan member accepted his order and stepped back, Xiao Yan let out a long sigh as he eyed the hall which had once again become empty. He lifted his teacup, and gulped the tea down, letting it soothe his dry throat.

"Yun Leng from the Misty Cloud Sect, just you wait. Once I have properly settled the Xiao clan, I will head there once again. This time around, I will no longer hold anything back!" Xiao Yan gently held the teacup. A ferociousness appeared on his face once again. His hand shook and the teacup abruptly burst apart!

TL: And another one

After Xiao Yan's orders were issued, one after another, the entire Xiao clan began to move. When the sky was dark, ten lightly-armed groups appeared in the spacious open ground. Xiao Yan thoroughly examined them before dispatching some of the stronger clan members into the ten light-armed groups. Finally, they took advantage of the dead of the night, and began to split up. One by one, they quietly slipped out of the Xiao clan. They would once again gather outside the city before beginning to split up and march toward the western region of the empire.

By the time the sky gradually brightened, over half the family members of the Xiao clan had already left.

In the morning, Xiao Yan stood on the top of a pavilion and looked around the entire courtyard. A long while later, he lifted his head and watched the morning glow which had spread over the horizon. A coldness flashed across his eyes before he suddenly turned his body and headed down a set of stairs.

While Xiao Yan was descending from a pavilion, there were already over a hundred Xiao clan men on the open ground. Their hands were already holding weapons as they stood in place. It appeared that they knew what they would be doing today. Therefore, the wild and fierce aura all over them was like a ferocious tiger which was descending a mountain.

“We will destroy all the remaining strength of the Jia Li clan and the Aoba clan today!” Xiao Yan slowly walked toward the exterior of the open ground while carrying the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler on his back. His cold voice, however, caused the blood of all the Xiao clan members on the open ground to boil. During these few days, there was an unknown number of clan members that had been secretly killed by the Jia Li clan and the Aoba clan. Now, it was time for revenge!

The quiet Wu Tan City was frightened by this killing aura which had suddenly appeared. The faces of those passersby who were walking on the street were completely stunned as they watched the mass of humans rushing out of the Xiao clan like a flood. The dark and cold killing intent that was emitted from their bodies caused everyone’s bodies to feel cold.

“What is the Xiao clan planning to do?” Some of the passersby could not resist muttering as they eyed the human flow that was surging past them on the street.

“That person leading them is really young. His appearance is also somewhat familiar.” Some of the people who had stayed at Wu Tan City for a number of years said a little uncertainly.

“That ruler is really large.” A tender voice suddenly sounded. After which, the entire street fell into a dead silence.

“That is Xiao Yan from the Xiao clan?” A shocked voice finally broke the silence which lasted for a moment. During this period of time, all the people in Wu Tan City had heard about the huge battle between Xiao Yan and the Misty Cloud Sect until calluses had almost appear in their ears. That special shaped huge ruler belonging to Xiao Yan had also become a symbol of his.

“This time around, the Jia Li and Aoba clans are going to be out of luck.”

Some of the people who were clear about the situation of Wu Tan City appeared to have come to a sudden realization after being slightly shocked. Immediately, a look of pity appeared on their faces as they shook their heads.

Similar to what these people thought, this torrent of the Xiao clan directly surged toward the marketplaces of the Jia Li clan and the Aoba clan. All the defences within them were instantly destroyed. Shining sharp blades awaited anyone who dared to resist!

Under Xiao Yan's leadership, the group from the Xiao clan was like a flood in transit. Any marketplace which they passed by was completely destroyed by them. Those guards of the Jia Li and Aoba clans were basically massacred until none were left. Wherever the flow passed, the marketplace was smashed, appearing in a dire shape. The Xiao clan had used the most ruthless method to pay back the suppression and humiliation the two clans had given them during this period of time.

Without the effective leadership of a Clan Leader, the two clans did not form an effective resistance. Therefore, in a mere morning, the marketplaces, underground gambling houses, etc. in Wu Tan City which belonged to the two clans had already been completely destroyed by the Xiao clan. This time around, the two clans were truly finished!

The gazes of everyone in Wu Tan City were attracted by the sudden eruption of the Xiao clan. The killing intent which had spread all over Wu Tan City let them know that the Xiao clan was indeed in a violent rage this time around.

However, when the gazes of the entire city were gathered on the fighting force of the Xiao clan, who were repeatedly moving around, the family members within the Xiao clan had completely left.

The operation to destroy continued from morning until evening. Since everyone was stunned by this operation of the Xiao clan, they did not realize that the original one hundred plus people who engaged in the destruction had unknowingly been reduced by a lot.

When the sun was about to set, the destruction, which had continued for

a full day, was completely over. The huge force of the Xiao clan with bloodstains all over their bodies once again returned to the large courtyard while laughing unrestrainedly. The door to the courtyard was then shut tightly, blocking all those curious gazes.

Tens of clan members whose bodies contained a fierce and evil presence sat down on the floor. They laughed loudly and conversed with one another, using this opportunity to declare the free and untroubled feeling today. Today was likely the most carefree and delightful day during these two years. In the past, the strength of the Xiao clan may not have been weak, but the Clan Leader did not have such a boldness because he needed to consider the larger picture. However, Xiao Yan completely possessed such courage!

The sound of footsteps slowly sounded from outside the open ground. Xiao Yan, who had changed into a clean robe smiled as he walked toward the open ground.

“Junior Clan Leader!” The tens of large men belonging to the Xiao clan stood up orderly upon seeing Xiao Yan appear. A fanaticism appeared in their eyes as they cried out loudly. The wild methods of Xiao Yan today had subdued all the worried thoughts of the Xiao clan.

Xiao Yan smiled and nodded his head. He walked up a high platform before slowly sweeping his gaze over the well lit Xiao clan. No one outside knew that there were only these tens of people left within the Xiao clan.

“Junior Clan Leader, the clan’s Qi Methods, Dou Techniques, wealth, etc. have already been completely consolidated. Ke ke, on account of Junior Clan Leader’s face, the Primer Auction House actually lent storage rings to us. This has helped us settle quite a lot of problems.” The first elder smiled and said.

“Ah.” Xiao Yan nodded with satisfaction. His gaze overlooked the warriors of the Xiao Clan and laughed softly, “Everyone, all of you will also begin to disperse and leave Wu Tan City tonight and gathering at the stipulated spot. When that time comes, you will gather together and head toward Rock Desert City. Once you have arrived there, our Xiao clan will

have a new beginning.”

“Junior Clan Leader, what about you?” The first elder suddenly asked.

Following the first elder’s words, everyone’s gazes shifted over to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan laughed softly. His delicate and handsome face faintly contained a savageness. “Me? I will go and take the life of that old bastard!”

The face of the first elder became slightly sluggish as he stared at Xiao Yan’s face. A long while later, he slowly bent his body toward Xiao Yan. After that, the tough warriors of the Xiao clan who had just undergone a blood trail also bent their straight bodies.

“Young Clan Leader, we will be waiting for you in Rock Desert City!”

“It’s time, go!” Xiao Yan nodded his head slightly. He then lifted it and glanced at the moonlight before waving his hand as he spoke.

“Junior Clan Leader, take care!”

The tens of warriors of the Xiao clan shouted in unison. Immediately, they turned their bodies. One by one, they dispersed and sank into the shadows. Under the dark, black, night sky, human figures were creeping about, much like ants, which had scattered in all directions, as they quietly slipped away from Wu Tan City.

Xiao Yan stood on the high platform and watched the courtyard which had become quiet. He sighed gently and muttered softly, “Yun Leng, it is all your fault that my Xiao clan is like this. This time, even Yun Tian will be unable to protect you!”

Xiao Yan slowly brought his hands out of his sleeves. Green-colored flames rose on his long hand. A moment later, a thick white-colored flame quietly crept out.

The green and white-colored flames mingled with each other under the night sky, dancing enchantingly.

On the top of a pavilion, Queen Medusa’s pretty eyes stared at the two

colored flames which were rising from each of Xiao Yan's hands. Her red sleek small mouth parted slightly. For the first time, a seriousness flashed across her bewitching pupils.

Chapter 361: Going Up To The Misty Cloud Sect Once Again

The blue sky was cloudless for tens of thousands of kilometers. Two small black spots stopped in the distant sky, overlooking Wu Tan City, which had been erected at the base of a mountain. From such a height, the Magical Beast Mountain Range beside Wu Tan City could also be seen within their eyesight. At a glance, the endless mountains appeared extremely majestic.

The Purple Cloud Wings on Xiao Yan's back gently flapped. He lowered his head and looked over Wu Tan City below. A long while later, he sighed gently. After leaving this time around, it was likely that he would never return again in the future.

"Goodbye." Xiao Yan softly muttered. He turned his head and eyed something not far beside him. At that spot, Queen Medusa seemed to be stepping on solid ground. Her body did not even have the slightest rising and falling movement of those who used wings.

"My motive of returning to the Misty Cloud Sect this time around is very straightforward. Kill Yun Leng and search for my father. Therefore, there is no room for reconciliation between either party this time around." Xiao Yan said faintly.

"I have already said that I will rescue you in any life and death situation that occurs. At other times..." Queen Medusa glanced at him. Her brows furrowed abruptly, and a seven-colored glow flickered across her bewitching eyes. A moment later, she helplessly said to herself in a soft voice, "Be quiet. He is not your kin, why are you so concerned about him?"

The seven-colored glow flashed once again in her bewitching eyes. A long while later, Queen Medusa grit her teeth, lifted her head, and coldly said to Xiao Yan, "Rest assured, you will not die!"

"Thank you very much. It is already enough to hear that you would help me at the crucial moment of life and death." Xiao Yan smiled faintly and

replied. He naturally knew that the 'Heaven Swallowing Python's' spirit had conversed with Queen Medusa earlier.

"You can continue to be conceited. With Yun Shan around, it won't be easy to kill Yun Leng." Queen Medusa laughed coldly. Although she was extremely shocked after finding out that Xiao Yan possessed two kinds of 'Heavenly Flames', the latter's strength was still too weak. It was extremely difficult for him to display the true strength of the two different types of 'Heavenly Flames'. Thus, it was undoubtedly impossible for him to use them in order to contend against a Dou Zong.

"Perhaps."

At this moment, Xiao Yan was not in the mood to argue with her. He knew that his trip to the Misty Cloud Sect this time would be extremely dangerous. The degree of danger far surpassed that of the previous trip. After all, both parties would really have an acrimonious falling out this time around. What Yun Leng did to the Xiao clan and his father was something that he could only compensate with his life. Therefore, this First Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect must die! This would happen even if Yun Shan were to protect him!

The 'Angry Buddha's Lotus Flame' was Xiao Yan's final trump card. Unfortunately, the strength it contained was exceedingly terrifying, but with its great power, the repercussions were also very frightening. This was the only thing that worried Xiao Yan.

"Let's go."

Xiao Yan once again lowered his head and looked at Wu Tan City one last time. He inhaled a deep breath of air and waved his hand. The wings on his back flapped abruptly, as he turned around and transformed into a ray of light which once again flew toward the distant capital.

As she eyed Xiao Yan who had travelled far away, Queen Medusa muttered, "Is he trying to let himself get caught? Or does he have confidence in his ability to fight against Yun Shan?"

She shook her head gently. Her feet pressed against the air, and waves of ripples pulsed in the empty sky. Immediately, her body disappeared in a

strange manner.

Xiao Yan did not make any stops on his journey to the Misty Cloud Sect this time. He rushed all the way there while refusing to eat and sleep. Because of this, the original three days' journey was forcefully reduced by half.

On the second day after leaving Wu Tan City, Xiao Yan, who was shuttling along, gradually entered the boundary of the capital. Of course, he did not make any stop within the capital. His body turned into a ray of light which directly flew through the sky above the city, immediately flying towards the majestic mountain near the horizon.

Although Xiao Yan did not make a stop in the capital, some of the strong people at the peak within the capital still sensed him when he swiftly flew through the sky above the city. Moreover, a commotion began to occur among these strong people who had sensed his familiar Qi.

In a remote bamboo forest deep within the imperial palace of at the capital, Jia Xing Tian, who was seated cross-legged and training suddenly opened his eyes. A surprise surfaced in his eyes as he watched the distant sky. A long while later, he said in a stunned manner, "Is this Qi Xiao Yan's? Why has he returned? Looking at the path he is travelling, it looks like he is going back to the Misty Cloud Sect? What is this fellow doing?"

In the Primer clan's headquarters in the eastern part of the capital, Hai Bodong had his eyes closed while in a noisy meeting of the Elder's Council. His body gently swayed along with the chair. The elders within the clan around him were intensely debating over some matters within the clan. Additionally, Ya Fei was actually seated beside Hai Bodong. However, she did not interrupt the argument between everyone. Her quiet manner made it seem as though she could not hear the fretful noisiness.

"Old Hai." Ya Fei tilted her head slightly. She smiled as she handed a cup of tea that had just been poured to Hai Bodong.

The latter's eyes opened slightly and nodded his head as he received the tea. He took a shallow sip and said with a faint smile, "Ya Fei, by being able to enter the Elder's Council, it means that you possess real power

within the clan. You must take advantage of this opportunity. There has never been such a young Elder within the Primer clan.”

“Ya Fei will naturally remember Old Hai’s teaching.” Ya Fei suddenly smiled. Her gaze took one look around her. Suddenly, she said in a soft voice, “Old Hai, is Xiao Yan alright?”

“Ke ke, you have already openly and implicitly asked this question many times during these few days.” Hai Bodong smiled and shook his head. He glanced at Ya Fei’s face which was becoming slightly flushed before he said with a smile, “Rest assured. That little fellow’s ability is extremely great. Even a strong person of Queen Medusa’s class stands beside him. The Misty Cloud Sect cannot do anything to him.”

“Oh.” Ya Fei quietly sighed in relief within her heart. She was just planning to turn her gaze toward the noisy meeting when the expression on the lazy-faced Hai Bodong abruptly changed drastically. His body suddenly sat up in the chair as he lifted his gaze to stare intently at the ceiling.

Hai Bodong’s sudden action caused everyone in the hall to be startled. Immediately, the voices arguing became quiet. One by one, they cautiously looked at Hai Bodong.

“Old Hai, what’s the matter?” Primer Tengshan was also shocked by Hai Bodong’s action and he asked carefully.

“Why has Xiao Yan returned? He is even going to the Misty Cloud Sect? What is he planning to do?” Hai Bodong had a stunned expression as he eyed a certain spot on the ceiling and muttered.

“Ah?” Fa Fei immediately let out a shocked gasp upon hearing this. Even the expression of Primer Tengshan off to the side also changed slightly.

“I will need to go and take a look. Tengshan, gather the ‘Shadow Guards’. There may be some trouble this time around. Seeing this manner of Xiao Yan, I’m afraid something big will happen.” Hai Bodong swiftly walked out of the door, giving the order as he walked.

“Uh? Gather the ‘Shadow Guards’?” Primer Tengshan was startled. He

eyed Hai Bodong, who was about to exit the door and could not resist saying, “Old Hai, is it not a little inappropriate to expose the ‘Shadow Guards’ just for a Xiao Yan?”

Hai Bodong’s advancing footsteps suddenly paused. He turned around and coldly glanced at everyone in the hall. In a deep voice, he said “To be honest, Xiao Yan has an even greater deterrence strength compared to the Misty Cloud Sect within my eyes. In the future, all of you in the Primer clan will realize the benefits of the decision I have made today.”

Upon saying these words, Hai Bodong turned around and headed out the main door. He ignored the group of stunned Elders. None of them had ever thought that Xiao Yan actually had such shocking weight within Hai Bodong’s heart.

The Alchemist Association.

The Mu clan.

The Nalan clan.

Something similar to this was happening all over the large capital. With Xiao Yan’s return, undercurrents began to flow fiercely within the capital, which had originally and gradually descended into a calm following the end of the Alchemist Grand Meeting and the Three Year Agreement.

Over ten human figures were seated at the spacious table within the huge meeting hall of the Misty Cloud Sect. Most of these people were wearing white robes with a special badge on their chest, letting others know that they possessed quite a high position within the Misty Cloud Sect.

Additionally, Pill-King Gu He was carelessly seated on the other side of the table. Behind him, Liu Ling had his body slightly bent as he stood. However, his gaze would occasionally drift toward a moon-robed lady on the opposite side. If one were to carefully look, this lady was actually Nalan Yanran.

The face of the current Nalan Yanran appeared a little thinner compared to a few days ago. As she sat alone, her originally vivid pupils were a little

absentminded. No one knew what she was thinking about. On a whole, however, the current her had less of the indifferent aura that rejected people. Instead there was more of a delicate and moving feeling.

“Yun Leng, why did you, Yun Lei, and Yun Cheng leave the clan a few days ago?” A clear and cold female’s voice that contained a faint majestic sound to it suddenly resonated within the quiet large hall.

“Sect Leader, we... we have only left because of some private matters.” Upon hearing the female’s voice, Yun Leng, who was seated on the seat of the leader of the Elders, tightened his fist slightly and hurriedly said with a smile.

Following Yun Leng’s gaze, one could see a lady wearing a moon-white-colored robe seated at the head of the table. There was a faint fury currently present on that graceful, pretty face which contained nobility. Hearing Yun Leng’s manner of address, this person was impressively the current Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, Yun Yun!

“The few of you went to Wu Tan City, right!?” Yun Yun coldly snorted.

Yun Leng was stunned. He lifted his head and eyed the other two people on the meeting table. Seeing their expressions, which contained a bitter smile, the him who had no hope of escaping could only helplessly nod his head.

“Sect Leader, Xiao Yan severely damaged our Misty Cloud Sect’s reputation. If we were to let him off this easily, won’t it cause others to think that anyone can step on our Misty Cloud Sect in the future? Moreover, he cannot escape being related to Mu Cheng’s death. Logically speaking, it is not overboard for him to be placed on the namelist for the Misty Cloud Sect to hunt down and kill.” Yun Leng tried to defend himself.

“Our dispute with Xiao Yan in the past has come to a complete end after the Three Year Agreement. By privately bringing people to the Xiao clan like this, it would undoubtedly cause others to say that our Misty Cloud Sect has little tolerance. Who would trust us in the future?” Yun Yun helplessly shook her head and immediately said in a deep voice after glancing at Nalan Yanran by her side whose expression had darkened

slightly upon hearing this name, “Moreover, do you think that I am not aware that your actions this time around are mostly because of your personal grudge? I’m afraid that Mo Cheng’s death is merely an excuse. That Mo Cheng’s relationship with you was not even that good to begin with.”

Yun Leng’s old face alternated between green and white upon hearing Yun Yun chiding him. However, he did not dare to interrupt her. He immediately resorted to throwing a gaze toward Yun Shan, who had his eyes closed as though he was in a deep sleep, begging to be saved from this topic of Wu Tan City.

“You need not look at me. According to the rules of the sect, Yun Yun is the current Sect Leader. Even I can only obey her words.” Although he had his eyes closed, Yun Shan appeared to know what Yun Leng was thinking and opened his mouth, speaking in a bland tone.

Hearing this, Yun Leng could only become completely quiet.

“Sect Leader, the First Elder was also thinking for the sect. Moreover, he did not cause much damage to the Xiao clan in his trip to Wu Tan City this time around. He merely damaged some buildings. Ke ke, no matter how one puts it, he is also the First Elder of our Misty Cloud Sect. If we let him lower himself and apologize to a small clan, wouldn’t that weaken our sect’s reputation even more? In any case, since no one in the Xiao clan recognized the First Elder, who hid his identity, we should pretend that nothing happened and let this matter pass. At the most, we can give the Xiao clan some compensation in the future.” An Elder stood up and smiled as he smoothed things over.

“You have forgotten about Xiao Yan already, no? Haven’t all of you played enough during the farce of the Misty Cloud Sect a few days ago? That Xiao Yan is no fool. Sooner or later, he will suspect the Misty Cloud Sect. Given his character, do you think that he would swallow the humiliation? Ah, Queen Medusa. With such a strong person backing him, even teacher wouldn’t dare say that he can definitely beat her, no?” Yun Yun frowned, and coldly laughed.

“Uh.” Seeing Yun Yun’s slightly cold expression, that elder did not dare to say anything more. He could only shrink his neck as he sat back down.

“Then what does Sect Leader plan to do? Don’t tell me that you will hand me over to Xiao Yan to vent his anger?” Yun Leng was also a little angry after being scolded. Immediately, he could not resist speaking.

“We will not go so far as to hand you over. Even if we were to hand you over, that Xiao Yan or Xiao Clan won’t have the courage to accept. But you shouldn’t be relieved. The punishment from within the sect is unavoidable.” Yun Yun looked faintly at Yun Leng before continuing, “It is fortunate that you did not create too much trouble this time around. After a few days, I will send someone over to the Xiao clan to harmonize things. I think that Xiao Yan would not dare to offend the Misty Cloud Sect especially within the Jia Ma Empire, even if he has Queen Medusa supporting him.”

Yun Leng quietly sighed in relief upon hearing this. Although the punishment within the sect was quite severe, it was likely that those people in the punishment office would not dare to go overboard given his position and relationships within the Misty Cloud Sect.

“We will let the matter rest here.” Yun Yun waved her hand and stood up. Her gaze carried a sternness as it swept across the hall. She said, “I will repeat this one more time. That farce back then is already over. It is not worth offending Xiao Yan just because of Mo Cheng!”

“Yes.” All the elders nodded their heads and responded upon hearing this.

Yun Yun sighed gently. She was just about to dismiss everyone when she realized that Yun Shan’s expression beside her had suddenly changed. His closed eyes were abruptly opened. A powerful, terrifying Qi shocked the entire hall.

“Teacher? What happened?” Yun Yun was stunned as she hurriedly asked.

“We want to let this matter end like this. Unfortunately, he does not agree.” Yun Shan’s expression was slightly dark and solemn. His gaze

looked afar toward the sky outside the large hall.

Not long after Yun Shan's voice fell, an icy cold cry containing killing intent that was difficult to hide fell from the sky like angry thunder. It immediately and swiftly spread throughout the entire mountain.

“Old dog Yun Leng, get out here to die!”

Chapter 362: Yao Yan, Yun Zhi

The ice-cold cry like angry thunder engulfed the entire mountain.

All the disciples in the Misty Cloud Sect lifted their heads, and turned their gazes toward the blue sky. At that spot, two human figures were suspended in the air. Thick killing intent was overflowing from within the body of the black-robed young man who was in charge.

“Xiao Yan? Why has he returned?” When some of the sharp eyed people saw the cold face of the black-robed young man, numerous shocked noises immediately and repeatedly sounded from within the Misty Cloud Sect. This young man who had turned the Misty Cloud Sect upside down days before had caused every single Misty Cloud Sect’s disciple to firmly remember this name.

Xiao Yan’s dark and cold gaze slowly swept all over of the Misty Cloud Sect below. Finally, it paused on a large hall. At that spot, a white glow which contained a fury suddenly shot out explosively. Finally, it suspended in the sky and a furious roar resounded throughout the sky, “Xiao Yan, you are actually this rude. Are you seeking death?”

Xiao Yan’s eyes stared intently at the green-faced Yun Leng who was suspended in midair. His right hand abruptly drew the Heavy Xuan Ruler from his back and suddenly pointed at the latter. In a thick voice, he said, “Old bastard. Even if Yun Shan wants to protect you today, I will still take your life!”

“Ah, what an arrogant tone! Coincidentally, I am looking for you too. Today, I think you should stay at the Misty Cloud Sect.” Yun Leng coldly laughed. He clenched his teeth and angrily replied. Having his name directly threatened and cursed by this person who had charged into their sect really caused him to lose all his reputation within the sect.

“Yun Leng, shut up!” A clear cold cry suddenly sounded in the sky. When they heard this cry, the Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples below bowed their bodies slightly and unanimously. Even Yun Leng could only violently shake his hand and take a step back.

A few white lights flashed across the horizon. Immediately, a few human figures scattered and appeared in the sky. The person in the middle was wearing a moon-white robe. The corner of her skirt fluttered gently in the wind. The hair on her head was set in a phoenix shape, setting off that pretty face. Her nobility contained some dignity that was difficult to hide.

Xiao Yan's gaze slowly swept across the few people who had appeared. His gaze stopped on Yun Shan for a moment before turning toward the moon-robed woman, who was at the center. For her to be able to willfully scold Yun Leng, who was the First Elder, it was likely that her status was quite high. Within the Misty Cloud Sect, other than Yun Shan who was present, it was likely that only the current Sect Leader, Yun Yun, possessed such authority.

Xiao Yan's gaze moved upward. It finally stopped on that graceful and noble pretty face. The two gazes interacted and were momentarily at a loss. Immediately, they became suddenly dull.

At this moment, a gentle breeze blew past and two dull faces which were looking at each other appeared.

"Yun Zhi?"

"Yao Yan?"

In the quiet midair, two shocked voices which carried a perplexity were suddenly emitted from the mouths of both Xiao Yan and the Misty Cloud Sect's Sect Leader, Yun Yun.

After the words left their mouths, the both of them were startled. Their gazes took one look around them. They seemed to have sensed something and their expressions immediately underwent some changes.

"Yun Zhi."

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the beautiful face, which had actually appeared a little flustered. A long while later, Xiao Yan appeared to have thought of something. He abruptly inhaled a deep cold breath. For some unknown reason, his heart had quietly become colder. His voice was trembling a little in anger, "I'm afraid that it would be more appropriate to

call you the Misty Cloud Sect's Sect Leader, Yun Yun, no?"

"You..." Those pupils which were filled with dignity within the large hall earlier were now a little flustered and uncertain. Yun Yun laughed, "I didn't think that the Xiao Yan whom Yanran had mentioned was actually you."

"Yun-er, are you acquainted with Xiao Yan?" Hearing the somewhat mindless conversation between the two, Yun Leng and the others around them were stunned. They faced each other. Beside them, Yun Shan furrowed his brows and could not resist interrupting.

"Ah, we have met a couple of times. However, he had also hidden his true name, therefore..." Yun Yun appeared to be a little evasive as she softly replied.

Xiao Yan's heart slowly became disappointed upon hearing Yun Yun's words. He mocked himself and shook his head. He then lifted it and said with a smile, "Yun Yun da-ren is the Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect. I am but a nameless little fellow, how can we be acquainted? The person whom I knew was called Yun Zhi and not Yun Yun."

TL: da-ren : used to refer to someone respectfully/ an official of higher ranking

The back of Yun Yun's teeth bit her red lips. She stared at the young face which contained self ridicule. Those words of his caused Yun Yun to faintly have a pained feeling within her heart. Her hands within her sleeves had also tightened. The degree of strength used actually caused her fingers bone to become whiter.

Yun Shan's gaze swept back and forth between Xiao Yan and Yun Yun. The frown on his forehead became deeper. He could sense that something had definitely happened between the two of them.

"Xiao Yan, I let you leave the last time. Why have you come to my Misty Cloud Sect this time. Moreover, you have humiliated our sect's Elder in front of everyone. Do you really think that our Misty Cloud Sect is easy to bully? Although you have Queen Medusa supporting you, the old me would like to advise you to not go overboard in anything that you do. If

you want to find soft persimmon to knead, you have come to the wrong place!” Yun Shan glanced at Queen Medusa behind Xiao Yan and shouted in a deep voice. There was a faint anger within his cry.

Xiao Yan’s gaze indifferently shifted from Yun Yun toward Yun Shan. He coldly laughed, “Sect Leader Yun Shan, I’m afraid that you will have to ask First Elder Yun Leng for the reason that I have come to the Misty Cloud Sect, no?”

Yun Shan’s expression changed slightly. He violently cut Yun Leng with his eyes before saying in a deep voice, “This time around, Yun Leng’s actions were merely a little impulsive. Moreover, he did not create much damage to your Xiao clan. I will send someone from the Misty Cloud Sect to compensate your clan for what has been damaged. Alright, if you have come because of that matter, you can leave.”

“Ha ha,” Xiao Yan was startled when he heard Yun Shan’s words. He immediately and abruptly let out a laughter. There was a little savage killing intent within his laughter. In the next moment, Xiao Yan, who had lowered his head and let out a loud laughter, abruptly raised it. That delicate and handsome face was contorted with killing intent. “Yun Shan, I am only speaking to you this politely because I respect you as a senior. However, are you really ignorant or are you pretending to be ignorant? Do you really think that the old dog Yun Leng came to my Xiao clan merely to damage some buildings? Due to what he did this time, my entire Xiao clan was nearly exterminated. How can this consequence be completely offset by a casual mention or compensation by you?”

The expressions of the few people in the sky changed slightly when they heard this. Yun Shan’s and Yun Yun’s expressions became a lot uglier. They did not expect that Yun Leng and the others had hidden so many things from them.

“It is true that Yun Leng was a little overboard with regards to this matter. What compensation do you want? My Misty Cloud Sect will try our best to agree to them.” Yun Shan sternly said. This time around, his tone was a little softer perhaps because his side was in the wrong.

“Compensation. All you know is compensation!” His reply sounded like thunder as a roar exploded forth and his face took on a ferocious expression.

TL: All you know is compensation = you don't know anything else/ it's not the right solution

Hearing this insult which was extremely blunt, all the Misty Cloud Sect members, including Yun Shan himself felt their heads become a little giddy. Given his status, when had he ever received such abuse? After feeling a little giddy, fury surged. Yun Shan's expression had also become dark and solemn.

“That old dog Yun Leng had chased after my father from the Xiao clan, planning to kill him. Even now, he has not returned, and we don't know whether he is alive or not. If you don't give me an explanation today, I will decimate the Misty Cloud Sect even if I have to gamble this life of mine!” Originally, Xiao Zhan's disappearance had already caused Xiao Yan's heart to be filled with killing intent and fury. Now that he had suddenly discovered Yun Zhi's true identity, his heart became a little more fretful. Adding all this to was the total nonsense that Yun Shan had spoken, Xiao Yan's heart, which already harbored killing intent combined with a ferociousness surging within it, finally erupted like a volcano.

“Your father? Yun Leng never said that he hurt your father.” Yun Yun could not resist saying as she eyed Xiao Yan who was becoming increasingly wild.

“Then do you mean that the truth which was witnessed by a few hundred members of the Xiao Clan was fabricated? In order to divert Yun Leng, those three old dogs, my father fled Wu Tan City by himself. Yun Leng and the two others gave chase. After this, my father never returned. If I don't find the Misty Cloud Sect to settle this account, who would I find? Who? Tell me!” Xiao Yan's expression was ferocious as he roared at Yun Yun.

In so many years, this was the first time that she had been angrily roared at by some. Logically speaking, Yun Yun would have immediately become

furious. For some unknown reason, however, she could not be even the slightest bit angry when faced with this person in front of her. She bit her red lips with the back of her teeth and turned her gaze toward Yun Leng. She angrily said, "Yun Leng, give me a clear explanation of this matter. Otherwise, I have the authority to get you to temporarily hand over the First Elder position!"

"Sect Leader, I did not harm his father." Some cold perspiration dripped from Yun Leng's head as he hurriedly said, "Back then, we did indeed gave chase. However, when we were about to capture him at a certain dense forest, he had suddenly disappeared. After that, even though we searched the nearby region, we still did not find any trace of him."

"Suddenly disappeared?" Yun Yun knit her eyebrows slightly, clenched her teeth and scolded, "Xiao Zhan's strength is merely that of the Da Dou Shi class. How can he disappear in front of you all with, one Dou Wang and two Dou Lings? If you want to lie, you should find a better excuse!"

"I am also ignorant about this. But the truth is as such. If Sect Leader does not believe me, you can go and ask Yun Lei and the other. They also witnessed it with their own eyes. I can swear that I have not lied with regards to this matter." Yun Leng smiled bitterly and said.

Yun Yun and Yun Shan exchanged glances. They frowned intently. Even if they were to believe Yun Leng's words, Xiao Yan would definitely not be willing to let things go like this. The two of them lifted their heads and indeed saw Xiao Yan's expression gradually becoming completely dark and solemn.

Xiao Yan's gaze stared at Yun Leng in a dark and cold manner. The fury which had exploded within his heart caused him to no longer listen to any of the nonsense of the other party. He inhaled a deep breath of cool air and flipped both his hands. The huge Heavy Xuan Ruler disappeared from his palm. His right hand was gently extended out and a green colored flame curled upward in front of everyone's gaze.

"If you don't hand over the person today, I will destroy this place." Xiao Yan stared at the green colored flame. The dark, black pupils of his

reflected a ferocious green glow. The voice which was like him muttering to himself, contained a killing intent, causing the expression of everyone present to change slightly.

“Xiao Yan, give me a few days. I will send people to help you search. If it is really as Yun Leng has said, your father’s life should not be in any danger.” Yun Yun hurriedly replied upon seeing that Xiao Yan had gone uncontrollably wild.

“There is no need. I don’t trust the people from the Misty Cloud Sect anymore.” Xiao Yan gently shook his head. He lowered it and eyed the green colored flame seedling that was gently fluttering on his hand. “Today, I want the life of that old dog, Yun Leng.”

“Xiao Yan, Yun Leng is indeed in the wrong with regards to this matter. However, isn’t it a little overboard for you to take his life just because of this?” Yun Shan said in a deep voice, “Moreover, even if you have the help of Queen Medusa, it is a little impossible to use your own strength to kill Yun Leng, no? I will not make a fuss of this matter today. Leave.”

Xiao Yan eyed Yun Shan who had waved his hand and a ridicule spilled from the corner of his mouth. His left hand was slowly raised. With a shake of his hand, a thick white flame suddenly appeared in everyone’s sight.

“This ‘Heavenly Flame’?” The eyes of everyone present shrunk abruptly when they saw the custer of thick white flames.

“Yun Shan, this is something that you have forced me to do.” Xiao Yan eyed the two different colored flames on his hand and softly muttered.

His hands paused for a moment. Immediately, they began to slowly move toward each other in front of everyone’s eyes.

Outside the Misty Cloud Sect, a few flowing lights suddenly came flashing over. They immediately stopped on a huge tree. When their gaze swept toward the two kinds of ‘Heavenly Flame’ on Xiao Yan’s hands which were slowly being brought together, they could not resist inhaling a breath of cool air.

“Heavens. This fellow is really crazy. Does he plan on completely destroying the Misty Cloud Sect? How did those idiots of the Misty Cloud Sect provoke him to this point?”

Hai Bodong’s figure appeared on the top of a tree. He was stunned as he watched the green and white flame moving closer to one another. His voice was nearly dull as he mumbled.

Chapter 363: Killing Yun Leng

Everyone within the Misty Cloud Sect lifted their heads to watch the green and white flames above Xiao Yan's hands, which were slowly coming closer together. At this moment, even the disciples, whose strength were weak, began to feel a little uneasy. A commotion began to spread throughout the disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect.

"Xiao Yan, what are you planning to do?" As a Dou Zong, Yun Shan was first to sense the uneasiness that rose in his heart. His eyes immediately widened as he cried out sternly.

Xiao Yan ignored his remark. His eyes, which were filled with a thick killing intent, stared at the two different colored flames intently. As the two different flames began to merge, the space between his two palms began to become tremendously distorted. Numerous muffled thunder-like explosions were emitted from within them, shocking the souls of those who were watching.

Behind Xiao Yan, Queen Medusa was also watching the former's action in shock. As she was suppressed by the 'Heaven Swallowing Python's' spirit in the past, she was only aware of some of the circumstances surrounding Xiao Yan. This 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' was coincidentally something which even she didn't know existed.

Merging two different 'Heavenly Flames'? Isn't this fellow a little overly crazy." Queen Medusa frowned slightly. Back then, just one Green Lotus Core Flame' had tortured her until she was barely alive. What kind of terrifying energy would merging two different kinds of 'Heavenly Flames' create?

"Stop him!"

As he saw the commotion transmitted from the collision between Xiao Yan's palms, Yun Shan's face gradually became serious. He could sense just how terrifying it would be if the two flames were to merge. Immediately, he waved his hand and said in a deep voice.

When they heard Yun Shan give the order, Yun Leng and a few others,

who were already waiting for it, flapped the Dou Qi wings on their backs immediately. Their bodies instantly turned into rays of light that shot toward Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan coldly watched Yun Leng and the others who were encircling him as they approached. He gently flapped the Purple Cloud Wings on his back and his body abruptly shot backward. As he pulled back, the two colored flames in his hands had already begun twining around each other. Numerous green-white flames were repeatedly shot out from the point of contact like an electric current. Occasionally, a flame which spilled out from within it would land on one of the huge trees. An instant later, the large trees, which were over ten meters tall, turned into a pile of ashes in front of numerous shocked gazes.

The few human figures in the sky repeatedly flashed and gave chase under the countless number of gazes below. Although the speed of Xiao Yan's Purple Cloud Wings could not compare to a true pair of Dou Qi wings, he managed to cunningly escape each time he was about to be surrounded by agilely dodging as well as using the 'Heavenly Flames' in his hands, which Yun Leng and the others feared.

During the time that they gave chase and he fled, the two kinds of flames in Xiao Yan's hand had completed over half the merging process. The green and white flames shrouded each other, much like a cluster of fire, repeatedly projecting a green and white electric current.

"Humph. This fellow is really crazy." As he eyed Xiao Yan who had repeatedly avoided being caught by Yun Leng and the others, Yun Shan let out a cold snort. He took a step forward and his body strangely appeared along the path where Xiao Yan was pulling back as though he had teleported. He extended his right hand and a suction force surged.

Just as Yun Shan planned to capture Xiao Yan in one go, a human figure flashed in front of him and Queen Medusa appeared to block him from the front. She said faintly, "The Misty Cloud Sect used all of its strength to capture a mere Da Dou Shi, and in the end of it all, even you need to take action. Isn't this a little too embarrassing?"

“Queen Medusa, don’t think that the old me is truly afraid of you. It is just that I don’t wish to offend you. Today, it is clear that Xiao Yan has come to find trouble with my Misty Cloud Sect. I hope that you won’t get involved in matters that do not concern you! Otherwise, my Misty Cloud Sect is also not something you can just carelessly step on.” Yun Shan eyed Queen Medusa who was blocking him, and cried out with a somewhat dark and solemn expression.

“If you are interested, I am happy to accompany you in trying my attacks. Ever since I have regained control of this body, I have really not used my full strength.” Queen Medusa gave a sweet smile as she said. There was actually some eagerness within her pupils.

Yun Shan’s face twitched slightly. He turned around and shouted to Yun Yun, “Yun-er, stop the ‘Heavenly Flames’ in Xiao Yan’s hands from merging. I will hold off Queen Medusa.”

“Ah? This...” Yun Yun was startled as she heard Yun Shan’s words. There was a struggle on her face and she actually stood in the air without doing anything.

“Yun-er, what are you doing? The thing in Xiao Yan’s hands is far too terrifying. If he were to throw it at the Misty Cloud Sect, this mountain peak would be completely destroyed. When the time comes, the disciples in the Misty Cloud Sect would definitely be dead or seriously injured. Will you still be worthy of this Sect Leader’s position then?” Yun Shan began to be a little stunned when he saw that Yun Yun actually did not act according to his words. Immediately, he let out a stern cry.

“Yes, teacher.” Yun Yun’s expression changed rapidly. Under the countless gazes of the Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples below, she clenched her white teeth and nodded. The pair of wings on her back were gently flapped and her body turned into a gentle breeze that flew toward Xiao Yan in a lightning-like manner.

Yun Shan finally sighed in relief upon seeing Yun Yun move. He turned his head and coldly eyed Queen Medusa as he said, “Even without me acting, it will definitely be impossible for Xiao Yan to successfully merge

the 'Heavenly Flames'."

"I am only holding you back. It is not of my concern of whether or not he will be able to succeed." Queen Medusa glanced at Xiao Yan who was flying in all directions as he was being chased and replied lazily.

"Hmph." Yun Shan cold laughed. He turned his head and traced the pursuit that was occurring in the sky above him with his eyes. His gaze stared intently at the spot between Xiao Yan's hand. As the two kinds of flames merged together, a terrifying energy that even Yun Shan needed to take seriously was slowly being agglomerated.

The pair of wings on Xiao Yan's back were flapped as he narrowly and dangerously dodged Yun Leng's pouncing time and time again. His expression suddenly changed, and a white light flashed past the corner of his eyes. He saw that Yun Yun had appeared in front of him like a ghost. A dense white glow was attached to her long delicate hand. At this moment, her hands were directly shooting explosively toward the fireball in Xiao Yan's palm. From the looks of the situation, the fireball which he had took great pains to merge would likely collapse on the spot if it were to be hit.

Xiao Yan grit his teeth ferociously. His hands, which were maintaining the merging of the 'Heavenly Flames', were abruptly raised much higher. He then flapped his wings and actually used his chest to meet Yun Yun's palm.

Yun Yun was startled when she saw that Xiao Yan was using his life to fight without fearing death. Her brows were furrowed tightly as she stared intently at the dark, black eyes which were like ink. The moment when the palm came into contact with the former's chest, her heart involuntarily softened. With a gentle sigh, she moved her body slightly and her hand was nestled close to Xiao Yan's chest as she flew past it.

"Xiao Yan, we can sit down and discuss if there is any matter. Can you not turn the matter until it becomes this rigid?" A soft voice that contained a begging feeling to it was transmitted into Xiao Yan's ears.

"There is nothing to discuss. It is your Misty Cloud Sect which had gone too far! A blood debt must be paid with blood! I will definitely take Yun

Leng's life!" Xiao Yan clenched his teeth and swiftly pulled back while laughing coldly.

"But the disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect are innocent. Why do you want to implicate them?" Yun Yun's hand was nestled close to Xiao Yan's shoulders as she flew past. It appeared like it was an extremely dangerous attack, but this was done purposefully by her.

"When Yun Leng broke into my Xiao clan, did he think of the few hundred people of my Xiao clan that were nearly killed because of him? Don't tell me that they were not innocent of anything?" Xiao Yan's body trembled as he furiously said.

"Ah." Yun Yun's mouth was widened as she watched Xiao Yan's face which was completely filled with a green fury. She could only let out a soft sigh as she said with a bitter smile, "You are far too agitated right now. Let's wait until you have calmed down before we continue to discuss. However, that thing in your hand is really too terrifying. I cannot allow you to continue creating it. I'm sorry."

Once she said those words, Yun Yun flapped the wind wings behind her back. Her speed abruptly soared. In an instant, she appeared in front of Xiao Yan. A faint delicate fragrance which Xiao Yan was familiar with immediately drifted into Xiao Yan's nose.

"The smell is exactly the same as it was one year ago." As he eyed the beautiful face which was within close proximity, Xiao Yan suddenly said those words with a curious coincidence.

The delicate hand, which was extended violently, abruptly paused at this moment. A flush of red suddenly surfaced on Yun Yun's face without any foreboding.

The moment that Xiao Yan had said those words, he had already recovered. He immediately sighed and flapped his wings, taking advantage of the instant that Yun Yun hesitated. He swiftly pulled away from Yun Yun's attack.

"Sly fellow." Yun Yun also recovered just as Xiao Yan pulled back. Her face was still flushed with an intoxicating red. She spat out softly before

lifting her head toward Xiao Yan who was flying backward. However, a paleness gradually surfaced on her face. She could see that the two colored flames had already completely merged at this moment. Fire serpents shot in all directions while they wiggled continuously, as though there was something about to break out.

“Has he really created it? Ah, time to hurry up and pull back. This time around, the Misty Cloud Sect is going to suffer a severe loss.” From a spot not far away, Hai Bodong eyed the green-white colored fireball which was repeatedly wiggling in Xiao Yan’s hand. He involuntarily swallowed a mouthful of saliva and said in a quivering voice.

Under countless gazes, the fireball in Xiao Yan’s hand hurriedly wiggled. An instant later, the fireball suddenly burst apart. The light from the fire shone brightly, and a green-white colored fire lotus the size of a palm curled up from within the fireball. After which, it was suspended above Xiao Yan’s right hand.

“This bastard Yun Leng!”

Yun Shan was stunned as he watched the green-white fire lotus. A moment later, he suddenly cursed severely. The energy that was overflowing from that flame lotus gave him an impulse to kill Yun Leng with one slap. Why did he have nothing better to do other than purposefully find such an enemy, who even he would find troublesome.

“This fellow actually still had something this powerful?” Queen Medusa’s face also revealed some shock as she muttered.

Xiao Yan’s face contained a fanatic expression as his gaze stared intently at the fire lotus in his palm. A giddiness suddenly appeared in his mind, but he clenched his teeth and endured it. Turning his head abruptly, Xiao Yan’s threw his dark, cold gaze toward Yun Leng below.

Yun Leng’s heart trembled when he saw Xiao Yan look at him. The current him had also clearly sensed just how frightening that fire lotus in the latter’s hand was. Immediately, cold sweat repeatedly fell from his face. A terrified expression surfaced on his face.

“Old bastard, go and die!” Xiao Yan spat as he grinned fiercely. His eyes

were crimson as he roared out furiously.

“Xiao Yan, I really didn’t hurt your father. Really! It is really he himself who disappeared!” Yun Leng’s expression became deathly pale as he sensed Xiao Yan’s killing intent. His body swiftly descended as he shouted sharply.

“Xiao Yan, no!” Yun Yun’s pretty face was pale as she cried out involuntarily to try to stop him.

Xiao Yan’s gaze stared at Yun Yun’s pretty face. A bitterness flowed out from the corner of his mouth. He gently shook his head and softly said, “It’s too late.”

Xiao Yan lifted his hand slightly. The green-white fire lotus slowly rose up. Xiao Yan waved his hand gently with an expressionless face. The green-white fire lotus instantly turned into a ray of fiery light that shot explosively toward Yun Leng below, who was trying to flee.

Under a countless number of gazes, the green-white fire lotus was like a meteor that had come from space as it carried a destructive force, cut through the distant air, and swiftly caught up with Yun Leng, who had a frightened face.

“Hah!” The seal in Xiao Yan’s hand was abruptly formed as he cried out with a ferocious expression on his face.

“Bang!”

As the cry fell, the green-white fire lotus suddenly exploded in front of numerous shocked gazes. At this instant, an explosion that was like a thunderclap could be heard within the radius of a few hundred kilometers around the Misty Cloud Sect!

Chapter 364: Life and Death Situation!

The loud, thunderous explosion resounded throughout the sky. At this moment, the peak of the Misty Cloud Mountain had appeared to have turned into an erupting volcano in an instant. The hot green-white flame seedling turned into a wave of fire and began to expand in an arc-like shape. In an instant, the Misty Cloud Mountain began to tremble intensely. Numerous large crack lines crawled along the mountain wall, and had begun to spread like wildfire. Mountain rocks rolled down and trees were incinerated. The scene was similar to that of doomsday.

The turbulent flaming wave formed an enormous fire lotus shape at the peak of the Misty Cloud Mountain. One could even clearly see it within a fifty kilometer radius from the mountain.

Countless people within a radius of fifty kilometers raised their heads and watched the fire lotus bloom on the peak of the Misty Cloud Mountain with shocked expressions. Even though they were a great distance from the mountain, the people could still feel that the air had suddenly become much hotter.

A perfectly shaped 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' actually had such terrifying destructive power.

In the sky, a few hundred meters from the peak of the Misty Cloud Mountain, the figures of Hai Bodong and the others flashed and appeared. They eyed the huge fire lotus that stood horizontally between the sky and the ground, and felt the hot wave that was being emitted. They could not resist feeling their throats become dry. This kind of force was really a little overly frightening.

"This thing was actually created by Xiao Yan?" Jia Xing Tian swallowed a mouthful of saliva. The shock on his face was difficult to hide. Although he had always viewed Xiao Yan extremely highly, he did not expect that a Da Dou Shi was actually able to unleash such a terrifying attack that even he himself felt palpitations in his heart.

Not far away from Jia Xing Tian's side, Fa Ma smiled bitterly and

nodded. Each time they met, this young fellow called Xiao Yan, it appeared that he would cause them to be extremely shocked. The mysterious flame lotus which he had currently displayed had given them a severe shock. As he thought about this, Fa Ma suddenly felt pity and regret in his heart. According to the hidden potential that Xiao Yan had displayed, he was actually worth as much as this large being known as the Misty Cloud Sect. In other words, even if he offended the Misty Cloud Sect because of Xiao Yan, it was completely worth it.

“Ah, Old Hai, that old fellow really has sharp and precise vision.” Fa Ma sighed softly and glanced at Hai Bodong who was standing in the air not far away as he softly said in his heart.

“Today’s matter has really blown up big. What did the Misty Cloud Sect do? According to Xiao Yan’s character, unless he was really desperate, he would not do such a crazy thing.” Hai Bodong’s eyes stared intently at the spot where the fire lotus was blooming. His expression was somewhat ugly as he rubbed his hands and spoke with a bitter smile.

“The strength of the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ is really terrifying. Moreover, it is not difficult to kill Yun Leng. The most important thing, however, is still Yun Shan, ah.” Hai Bodong clearly knew that Xiao Yan directly fainted after using the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ last time. If he had not stepped in and rescued him, it was likely that even Xiao Yan himself would be convulsed to death by the remanent waves of the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’. With Yun Shan currently present, even if he wanted to take action, it would definitely be impossible for him to once again take Xiao Yan away and successfully leave. Moreover, Yun Yun was still present. The difficulty had risen by another few times.

“Ah, little fellow, this time around, you were really too reckless.” Hai Bodong sighed. He turned his gaze toward the spot where the fire lotus was gradually disappearing. The fire wave had already begun to slowly withdraw from that spot.

Numerous gazes were agglomerated at the Misty Cloud Mountain’s peak where the mountain was shaking and the ground was trembling. That was where the fire lotus has bloomed. At such close proximity to the

explosion, even a Dou Huang would have difficulty completely enduring such a terrifying destructive force.

Following the slow flow of time, the fire wave that covered the Misty Cloud Mountain finally began to dissipate. A complete mess appeared in one's sight. Even though Hai Bodong and the others had expected this, they still could not resist smiling bitterly and shaking their heads.

The smoke dissipated and the enormous open ground appeared to have undergone an earthquake. Crack lines were spread out in all direction. Most of the originally towering large hall near the field has collapsed. The stone monument that stood in the middle of the open ground was also blasted until only a small piece was still inserted into the rock surface. The remaining portion was all broken into powder by the terrifying destructive power of the fire lotus. Numerous buildings and halls that were located around the open ground had been directly turned into ruins. There were still the groans from the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples repeatedly ringing out from the open ground.

Of course, the destructive power created by an 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' that had bloomed perfectly naturally did not only destroy some buildings. The only reason that prevented the fire lotus from creating too much destruction was a huge inverted bowl shaped energy barrier that fell from midair.

The enormous energy barrier directly wrapped around the entire perimeter of the Misty Cloud Mountain Peak. From the water-like ripples that were circulating around it, it was likely that even a strong Dou Huang would have difficulty breaking it. Even if this were so, the remanent energy that penetrated through it when the fire lotus exploded was still able to destroy the Misty Cloud Sect until it was in a complete mess.

At the moment the fire wave disappeared, Xiao Yan, who was in the sky, also appeared. His current condition appeared to be quite bad. His expression was pale and his palms were charred black. Xiao Yan's breathing was hurried as his crimson eyes swept over the huge energy barrier. Finally, his expression was dark as his gaze paused at Yun Shan, who was suspended in midair with one hand placed against the energy

barrier. Looking at his manner, it appeared that this energy barrier which had blocked the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' should be his doing.

Of course, Yun Shan may have successfully blocked the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame', but he had also exhausted quite a great amount of strength. His breathing, which was originally long and gentle, had suddenly become a little quicker. Compared to his breathing, Yun Shan's expression had already completely become dark. A fury was swiftly being brewed within his eyes.

Xiao Yan's dark and thick gaze swept over Yun Shan. Finally, it paused on the human figure which was held in Yun Shan's left hand. He was startled and a cold smile immediately seeped out of the corner of his mouth. The person whom Yun Shan was carrying was clearly Yun Leng, who was the first to receive the attack of the fire lotus. Seeing the fresh blood currently covering his body and his increasingly weak breathing, it was clear that he did not have any chance of survival.

An intense giddiness suddenly surged in Xiao Yan's head. His body swayed slightly as he clenched his teeth and endured it. He took out an 'Energy Recovery Pill' from within his storage ring and threw it into his mouth. After which, he flapped his wings and pulled his body swiftly back. Yun Leng had already died. Thus, he needed to swiftly leave this place.

"Alright, alright... Xiao Yan. You are the first person who has reduced my Misty Cloud Sect to such a state in so many years. I have really underestimated you." Yun Shan's gaze slowly swept across the decimated sect below as he suddenly laughed. The fury that was contained within the laughter let everyone know that under that calmness was a volcano that was about to erupt.

Yun Shan lowered his head and watched Yun Leng, who obviously could not be saved, in his hand. The fury in his eyes grew even greater. He was silent for a moment before throwing him over toward a few Elders on the open ground. In a faint voice, he said, "Go and get Elder Gu He to try and save him and see if he can survive."

The two Elders agilely received Yun Leng who was thrown over before

hurriedly bowing and retreating.

Yun Shan gently waved his hand. The huge bowl-shaped energy barrier slowly disappeared. He inhaled a deep breath of air. The calm voice of his contained a killing intent and fury as it reverberated unceasingly throughout the Misty Cloud Mountain.

“Xiao Yan has destroyed our sect, killed our elder. Using my position as the eighth generation’s Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, I announce that from now on, he will be placed on the Wanted list of the Misty Cloud Sect. We will not rest until his death! The humiliation that our sect has received must be washed away by his blood!”

The faint voice did not disappear for a long time. Everyone who heard these words were stunned for a very long while before recovering. They sighed softly. This matter had really escalated to the most rigid stage.

Yun Yun’s pretty face also gradually became pale while she stayed in midair.

Xiao Yan coldly watched the calm faced Yun Shan. His expression was similarly unmoved at this order to chase and kill him. The pair of wings behind his back flapped and he was only concerned about retreating quickly.

“Since you dared to come to the Misty Cloud Sect to forcefully kill Yun Leng, you should also be prepared to stay behind. Even if Queen Medusa is protecting you today, the old me will definitely get you to stay at the Misty Cloud Sect forever!” Yun Shan’s eyes abruptly widened as he cried out in a dark voice.

As the cry fell, Yun Shan’s body instantly disappeared from the spot.

The skin on Xiao Yan’s body felt a chill when Yun Shan disappeared. He forcefully stopped his swiftly retreating body. Immediately, he turned his body forcefully and with great strength, shifted his body a little to the left.

“Bang!”

At the moment Xiao Yan’s body shifted, a shriveled hand appeared out of nowhere from the spot where he had moved from just moments before.

It violently smashed at the space there. The enormous force contained on the palm actually shook the space until circular ripples of energy were created.

“Your senses are quite good, but not good enough!” A faint voice sounded in midair. Xiao Yan’s expression suddenly paled. Immediately, a mouthful of fresh blood was wildly vomited. He forcefully turned his head. Yun Shan had appeared behind him unknowingly. A moment ago, he had merely gently flicked his sleeves and caused Xiao Yan to convulse until he suffered an internal injury.

“Stay behind.” Yun Shan coldly looked at Xiao Yan. His palm was curled into a claw as he grabbed at Xiao Yan’s throat in a lightning-like manner.

“Bang!” At the moment before Yun Shan grabbed Xiao Yan, a shadow suddenly flashed passed. A snow white jade-like delicate hand gently grabbed onto that hand claw. The two came into contact and an incomparably ferocious energy was immediately erupted from the point of contact. Xiao Yan, who had received a strike by this force had his body swiftly pushed back.

“I have already said. It is useless even if Queen Medusa protects you today!” Yun Shan’s shoulders shook slightly. He shed off the force and eyed Queen Medusa who had appeared in front of Xiao Yan in a deeply cold manner. His body suddenly trembled swiftly. Following this tremble, two afterimages strangely appeared from within Yun Shan’s body.

After the afterimages left his body, they immediately spread out and shot in different directions. They dodged past Queen Medusa and struck explosively toward Xiao Yan who was not far behind.

“A clone that possesses the main body’s strength, huh.” Queen Medusa eyed the two afterimages that had appeared. Her eyes shrunk slightly. She could clearly sense that the two afterimages possessed a huge amount of energy.

Queen Medusa turned her body in an instant. She was just about to block the two afterimages when Yun Shan’s actual body strangely reappeared in front of her, firmly blocking her advance.

As the two of them clashed, the two afterimages had already caught up with Xiao Yan in a lightning-like manner. A terrifying force was being gathered in their hands as they immediately smashed violently at Xiao Yan's chest.

"Icy Xuan Mirror!" A cry suddenly rang and an enormous ice mirror appeared in front of Xiao Yan.

"Bang!" The fists were violently smashed into the ice mirror. The latter merely endured the attacks for around a second before it exploded.

"Xiao Yan, leave quickly!" A white shadow flashed and appeared in front of Xiao Yan. Hai Bodong flipped his hand and struck Xiao Yan's chest. A gentle force suddenly pushed Xiao Yan backward.

"Hai Bodong, since you want to do this, then don't blame me for forgetting our old friendship!" The two afterimages appeared to possess Yun Shan's intellect. When they saw Hai Bodong stepping forward to stop them, their expressions immediately became cold as they cried out sternly.

Hai Bodong laughed bitterly but did not speak. Cold air swiftly agglomerated between his hands, and immediately turned into two sharp icicles that were swiftly rotated. The wings on his back flapped and moved forward toward the two afterimages.

"Get lost!" One of the afterimages cried out angrily while having a dark and cold expression. A terrifying force surged outward from within his body. His two hands swiftly formed seals. His right hand waved and a huge energy palm tens of feet large appeared above Hai Bodong's head before ruthlessly smashing downward.

"Large Wind Handprint!"

"Bang!" At the moment the energy handprint smashed downward, Hai Bodong quickly formed a couple of ice walls above his head. Unfortunately, the force contained within the energy palm was really too terrifying. Therefore, the ice wall burst apart with a 'bang' following a clear sound. The energy handprint firmly smashed against Hai Bodong's body.

A soft muffled groan was emitted from Hai Bodong's throat. His expression became slightly pale, and blood flowed out from the corner of his mouth. He did not expect that these two strange afterimages of Yun Shan's would actually possess such frightening strengths.

Due to the force contained on the handprint, Hai Bodong's body was violently slammed downward for some distance. Taking advantage of this, the two afterimages moved their bodies and once again caught up with the fleeing Xiao Yan in a lightning-like manner.

"Little fellow, I have tried my best. Next, you can only rely on yourself." As he eyed the two afterimages which had once again caught up with Xiao Yan, Hai Bodong could only shake his head bitterly.

Under a countless number of gazes, one afterimage swiftly appeared in front of Xiao Yan, while the other appeared behind him. Between their hands, a terrifying force was being prepared. They immediately let out a loud cry and they ferociously smashed toward Xiao Yan from the front and back while carrying circular energy ripples. Seeing this situation, it was difficult for Xiao Yan to escape death should he be struck!

Being suppressed by the powerful force, Xiao Yan's clothes was pressed until they were tightly stuck to his body. The fist in front of him was also being swiftly magnified in his eyes.

The two forces formed a cage of pressure that trapped Xiao Yan within. It was like the heavens and the earth coming to capture him, causing him to have no means to escape.

Xiao Yan sensed the powerful force that was about to descend upon his body. He gently sighed. The giddiness in his mind also became increasingly intense. He clearly knew in his heart that this was the aftermath of using the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame'.

Xiao Yan's eyelids gradually grew heavier. They blinked slowly and the darkness quietly struck before the frightening force reached him.

"Looks like I really have to stay here. Teacher, I'm really sorry." Xiao Yan bitterly smiled as he softly muttered.

“Ke ke, little fellow, you have already done quite well. Being able to turn the Misty Cloud Sect into such a state has already far exceeded my expectations.” An old voice suddenly and faintly sounded in the darkness. The familiar and warm voice caused Xiao Yan’s icy cold and hopeless heart to be abruptly filled with life and vigor as though if it was something completely new.

“Let this old teacher of yours take over from here.”

A majestic energy gently leaped forth from within the darkness. After being silent for a moment, it suddenly surged out from somewhere bottomless.

In the sky, the eyes of Xiao Yan, which were tightly closed, trembled slightly. An instant later, they were abruptly opened. The originally dark, black pupils had been replaced by one green and one white one, appearing extremely strange...

Chapter 365: Gate of Life and Death

In the distant sky, Yun Shan's two afterimages waved their fists which contained a terrifying force that caused people to feel horrified, and smashed violently toward Xiao Yan's head in front of a countless number of gazes.

Just as everyone thought that it would be difficult for Xiao Yan to escape this calamity, a ripple containing a majestic underlying force surged explosively outward in the sky with Xiao Yan as the epicenter. Wherever the force passed, one could see that the two clone afterimages, which even Hai Bodong had difficulty withstanding had, abruptly froze. Immediately, a muffled sound was emitted and they burst apart with a 'bang' in front of the many dull gazes below.

Everyone's faces were completely dull as they watched the two afterimages which were blasted into nothingness in the sky. Even Jia Xing Tian and the others, who were not far away, also felt like they could not recover their focus. As people of the Dou Huang level, they were able to clearly sense the strength of the two afterimages. They were not a kind of illusionary shadows. Instead, they were real energy bodies that Yun Shan had used some Secret Technique to summon forth. Putting it bluntly, just these two afterimages might be on par with two strong Dou Huangs.

Of course, this was only speaking based on the degree of power contained within them. If a real Dou Huang were to face the two afterimages, it may be very troublesome, but it would also not be as difficult as really facing two Dou Huangs. After all, afterimages were in the end, afterimages. Their ability to withstand being struck was far inferior compared to a true Dou Huang.

If it were not for Hai Bodong being at a disadvantage for being caught unprepared earlier, he would not be forced back at the first encounter.

"This strength..." Hai Bodong, who was suspended in midair, stared at Xiao Yan who was floating in the sky in a stunned manner. He sensed the boundless energy that was suddenly surging out from Xiao Yan's body. A

long while later, a pleasant surprise abruptly surfaced within his eyes. “Is this fellow finally able to use that hidden strength?”

“What is happening? Xiao Yan’s strength appears to have suddenly soared over a couple of classes?” Jia Xing Tian turned his head and eyed Fa Ma as he said with shock.

“This... I don’t know either. The strength that is being emitted from his body is even stronger than mine.” Fa Ma bitterly smiled and shook his head. His face had an expression that was close to being numb.

On the top of some ruins, Yun Yun’s pretty eyes stared at the location where Xiao Yan was. Her eyes flickered. Her delicate hand could not help but quietly cover her widened red lips.

On the open ground which was in a complete mess, the disciples of the Misty Cloud Sect also stared at the sky foolishly. Although they were unclear how strong the two afterimages which Yun Shan had summoned were, given their ability, they were still able to piece some ideas together from the lightning-like collision between the two afterimages and Hai Bodong earlier. However, the strong afterimages that even a strong Dou Huang had difficulty withstanding were actually shattered into nothingness by Xiao Yan, who was merely a Da Dou Shi. This was really a blow toward these Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples, who had always viewed Yun Shan as a god within their hearts.

The entire Misty Cloud Sect had descended into dullness and shock because of the eruption from Xiao Yan at this instant!

When the afterimages disappeared, Yun Shan, who was the original body immediately sensed it. He swiftly shook off Queen Medusa’s entanglement and watched Xiao Yan, who was a short distance away, with a grave expression.

“It is really unexpected that this fellow is actually still hiding another trump card. Since you can handle it, I really am also too lazy to act. My current Spiritual Strength is unable to last for very long anyways.” Queen Medusa’s pupils were also shocked by the majestic force that was surging out. She turned and watched Xiao Yan as she said in a soft and surprised

voice.

The majestic force that surged out of Xiao Yan's body in the sky gradually disappeared. Finally, it was completely withdrawn into Xiao Yan's body. He lowered his head and indifferently swept over Yun Shan with a pair of eyes that were shrouded by the green and white colored flames. His faint voice was like a stifled thunder that sounded from the skyline, "The Misty Cloud Sect Leader is but only so much. I want to leave today. Your Misty Cloud Sect does not have the strength to stop me."

Yun Shan's expression became slightly gloomy. A force that did not lose to that which erupted from Xiao Yan earlier slowly overflowed from Yun Shan's body. His footsteps gently stepped on the empty air and immediately flashed and appeared in front of Xiao Yan. He frowned and said in a deep voice, "I have really underestimated you. It is really unexpected that you were actually hiding such terrifying strength within your body. No wonder you always have nothing to fear. However, I think that this strength does not be something that truly belongs to you, no?"

With Yun Shan's experience, he naturally knew that no matter how great Xiao Yan's talent or how high the tier of the medicinal pills he had consumed was, it would be impossible for Xiao Yan to be able to match a strong Dou Zong when he was not even twenty years old. Therefore, with the first words that left his mouth, he had said some clues with regards to Xiao Yan's strength.

"Regardless of who this strength belongs to, at the very least, it allows me to control it like my arm." 'Xiao Yan' lifted his hand slightly. The thick white flame surged out and immediately shuttled and leaped agilely onto his fingers, much like an elf's magic.

"Humph. Using an external item to forcefully raise your strength is but transient. I don't believe that you are able to maintain this strength for a long time." Yun Shan coldly laughed, "Regardless of how strong you are, if I were to let you successfully leave after you killed an Elder of my sect, what face would my Misty Cloud Sect have to continue standing in the Jia Ma Empire?"

“You can try...” The face of ‘Xiao Yan’ was covered with indifference. There was not the slightest fluctuation because of Yun Shan’s words. He lifted his eyes and the white-colored flame in his hand abruptly surged forth.

“In so many years, there has not been a single person who has been able to leave, when I, Yun Shan, wanted to hold them back.”

Yun Shan’s eyes were ice cold. His hands swiftly formed a seal. Following the formation of the the seals of his hands, the air around him began to fluctuate. Waves of wild wind agglomerated around his body. As this pale-green colored wild wind gathered, an eye-piercing white-colored glow suddenly and strangely appeared at a spot around the tip of his finger.

“Hei, you have bullied my disciple. Today, I want to see how you will hold me back despite my strength being only around twenty to thirty percent of my peak.” ‘Xiao Yan’s’ eyebrows twitched and muttered to himself with a cold smile as he eyed the white-colored glow on Yun Shan’s finger which was partially visible.

Seemingly having sensed the terrifying big battle that was about to erupt in the sky, the Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples below hurriedly fled behind some huge rocks. Hai Bodong and the others in the sky had also swiftly retreated for some distance for safety reasons. In a fight at this level, even a residual energy wave was extremely terrifying. If they were to be dragged in, they would really be out of luck.

Yun Yun raised her head and watched the two people who were opposing one another. An anxiety involuntarily surfaced on her pretty face. The truth of Xiao Yan being Yao Yan had instantly shattered her usual calm. A muddled emotion shrouded her heart, causing her to forget to lead the Misty Cloud Sect’s disciples which were in disarray.

“Teacher, do you... you know Xiao Yan?” A soft voice suddenly sounded from beside Yun Yun. She was startled as she turned her head to see who it was, only to find Nalan Yanran biting her lip. Those broken and dark eyes of Nalan Yanran were staring directly at her.

When she saw the current Nalan Yanran, Yun Yun’s gaze suddenly and

unknowingly began to drift and dodge. However, the latter was after all the leader of a sect. After her heart was in a mess for a while, she forcefully suppressed some of the emotions. With a smile, she patted Nalan Yanran's shoulders and softly said, "I have met him a couple of times. However, the him then had used another name. Moreover, I had never met him before and thus, did not recognize him. This was why I felt extremely shocked when I saw him earlier."

"He really does like to use a false identity to cheat others." Nalan Yanran said bitterly. The man who was the first person to cause her to feel admiration from someone of the same age group as well as some man and woman feelings was actually this fellow in disguise. This kind of blow was even more painful than her losing the Three Year Agreement.

Hearing this, Yun Yun nodded her head while deeply feeling the same. She sighed. Suddenly, she saw Nalan Yanran's gaze as the latter lifted her head and stared directly at Xiao Yan. She was slightly stunned, seemingly having sensed something. Her expression changed slightly as she softly said, "Yanran, don't tell me that you have fallen for him?"

Nalan Yanran's pretty face was startled. She hurriedly lowered her head in a panicked manner. Her gaze was evasive as she forcefully laughed, "Teacher, how can this be possible. He is the person I hate the most."

Yun Yun merely stared at the pretty face which was laughing forcefully. She did not speak.

After Yun Yun stared for a while, a redness suddenly surfaced in Nalan Yanran's pretty eyes. The latter suddenly pounced into Yun Yun's chest. The grievances that were in her heart for a long time had finally turned into a moaning cry, "His revenge is really very ruthless. Teacher, I regret my actions deeply."

"Ah." Yun Yun sighed. She gently stroked Nalan Yanran's smooth and long hair as she said with a bitter smile, "I am also in the wrong. I should not have given in to your pestering and agreed to let you cancel the engagement. Otherwise, these things would not have happened."

"Teacher, what should I do now?" Nalan Yanran lifted her head. Her

tearful manner appeared extremely moving.

Yun Yun was quiet. She immediately smiled bitterly once more. Her heart was now full of pins and needles over the issue of Xiao Yan. Moreover, with Xiao Yan's current relationship with the Misty Cloud Sect, it was assured that they would become enemies. Moreover, she had lived with Xiao Yan for a short period of time. She knew this fellow's character. Therefore, she clearly knew that Xiao Yan might only have pure dislike or even disgust toward Yanran. The cancellation of the engagement was like a god's axe that could split the sky, creating a divide between the two of them that anyone would have difficulty crossing. It was much easier to ascend to the Heavens rather than Xiao Yan to develop feelings for Yanran.

As she eyed Yun Yun's expression, Nalan Yanran also appeared to have understood a little. She mocked herself and shook her head before saying softly, "I have indeed reaped what I have sown."

"Teacher, once the matter here is over, allow me to enter the 'Gate of Life and Death'." Nalan Yanran's face had a faint darkness as she suddenly said.

"You want to enter the 'Gate of Life and Death'? That is a place where one needs to be at the Dou Ling class before entering. Although you are the only person of this generation who could possibly resonate with the 'Gate of Life and Death', it is too dangerous to enter now." Yun Yun said in a stunned manner when she heard this.

"That place is where the Misty Cloud Sect's Sect Leaders over the generations rest. As a member of the Misty Cloud Sect, I think that I will receive their protection. Teacher, promise me. In my current condition, it is not suitable for me to continue training quietly." Nalan Yanran shook her head and said.

"Ah." Yun Yun eyed that stubborn Nalan Yanran and was quiet for a moment. She could only sigh and nod her head. As she stroked Nalan Yanran's long hair, she softly said, "The 'Gate of Life and Death' was originally the last test that the successor of the Misty Cloud Sect's Sect

Leader had to undergo before becoming the Sect Leader. However, since you insist on entering, I will discuss this with your grand-teacher after this matter is over. There is indeed quite a lot of benefits for you to enter earlier and come into contact with the 'Gate of Life and Death'."

Seeing that Yun Yun had finally promised her, Nalan Yanran also sighed in relief. She lifted her head and watched the young man in the sky who was giving a tit for a tat against Yun Shan. The emotions in those pretty eyes were complicated.

During the time that the two of them were conversing, the battle in the sky had finally begun, the fiercest collision between the strong!

Two strong people who were at the Dou Zong level were about to begin a fight among that would shake the entire Jia Ma Empire!

Chapter 366: The Big Fight Between Dou Zongs!

Following the numerous strands of wild wind agglomerating around him, the white glow on the tip of Yun Shan's finger grew increasingly eye-piercing. In its completed form, it was almost like a dazzling sun high up in the sky.

“Wind's Peak: Killer Meteorite!”

At that instant, the air surrounding Yun Shan instantly solidified. His finger suddenly pointed at Xiao Yan. With a stern cry, the white glow emitted a bright flash and an extremely narrow ray of light explosively shot out.

The speed of the ray of light was so fast, that it was somewhat frightening. Wherever it passed, the air became disturbed and distorted. A dark, black trace stained the blue sky, appearing extremely eye-piercing.

This terrifying Dou Technique was something that Yun Yun had used before when she fought with the Amethyst Winged Lion in the past. This attack had directly cut off an Amethyst Winged Lion's horn, which was the hardest part of its body, which also possessed the strength of a Dou Huang. From this, it could be seen just how terrifying the piercing strength of this mysterious Dou Technique was. Moreover, the Dou Technique was currently displayed by Yun Shan. Regardless of whether it was momentum or the extent of the strength of the force, the Dou Technique this time had far surpassed the power that Yun Yun had displayed back then.

Once 'Wind's Peak' appeared, the expressions of Jia Xing Tian and the others far away from the battleground changed at almost the same time. Immediately, they hurriedly pulled back a very great distance as though they were fleeing. From the looks of it, they already knew how frightening this Dou Technique was. They might even have personally gotten a taste of it before.

Only Xiao Yan, and Queen Medusa in the sky could remain still with

expressions that did not change.

‘Xiao Yan’ indifferently watched the white-colored ray of light that instantly broke through the air and shot toward him. He lifted his hand gently. The thick white-colored flame shrouding his finger suddenly rose and flared up. In the blink of an eye, it completely wrapped his body within it. His right hand was extended and the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler once again appeared in his palm. It was gripped abruptly and tightly as an eye-piercing, intense light erupted from the dark, black body of the ruler.

The intensity of the bright light on the ruler’s body grew increasingly extreme. In the end, it was almost like a bright sun that caused people to be afraid to look at it directly.

With a serious expression, Xiao Yan let out a low cry. The heavy ruler in his hand abruptly hacked ferociously downward toward Yun Shan, who was a short distance away.

“Flame Splitting Tsunami!”

The cry resounded throughout the sky. A crescent-shaped, white-colored energy blade that was thirty feet in length shot explosively out of the tip of the Heavy Xuan Ruler.

The huge, flaming white, crescent blade energy projectile shot across the skyline, disappearing in a flash. That hot feeling which suddenly appeared almost caused the people in the battleground to be in a wave of fire.

The curved blade of energy carried numerous ear piercing explosions as it cut across the skyline. That indomitable strength even had the tendency of wanting to split the sky into half.

The Dou Technique displayed was the same one, but the ‘Flame Splitting Tsunami’ this time around was at least ten times stronger than the one that Xiao Yan had displayed at the Misty Cloud Sect back then! This was the gap created by the difference in one’s strength!

The crescent moon-shaped blade cut through the distant air. Under the watch of countless gazes, it finally collided with the white-colored energy beam that was shooting across the sky in a lightning-like manner. In an

instant, a thunder-like roar exploded into the blue sky. Terrifying energy waves began surging out from the point of collision. That enormous pressure actually caused some of the people standing in the square to be directly pressed into a fetal position.

“Is this the strength of a Dou Zong? It is indeed extremely extraordinary.” Even though Jia Xing Tian and the others were a great distance away, the energy waves that came toward them still caused their expressions to change slightly as they once again pulled back even further. After steadying himself, Jia Xing Tian lifted his head and eyed the spot where the two people were fighting with heated gazes. No matter how one put it, he was an extremely strong person who had already taken half a step into the Dou Zong class. However even if it were so, if he were faced with a true Dou Zong, he would still feel an enormous gap which was difficult to cross.

“I’m afraid that the current Xiao Yan also has the strength of a Dou Zong, no? Otherwise, it would definitely be impossible for him to blow away Yun Shan’s ‘Wind’s Peak’. It should be known that when Yun Shan was still a Dou Huang back then, he had used this move to kill two strong people of his strength from the Chu Yun Empire.” Fa Ma’s face was grave as he said.

“I don’t know if you have realized, but ever since Xiao Yan’s strength suddenly soared, he has merely used that thick white-colored ‘Heavenly Flame’. He did not use even a little of that green-colored flame.” Fa Ma suddenly said. As an alchemist, it was natural for him to be extremely attentive toward flames.

“Yes. But the manner in which the current Xiao Yan uses to control that white-colored flame is clearly much more refined compared to earlier.” Jia Xing Tian nodded his head and replied.

“This fellow is really someone whom others cannot figure out.” Fa Ma mused for a moment, but did not even have the slightest clue. He could only shake his head and speak with a bitter smile.

Jia Xing Tian nodded his head, completely sharing the same opinion. He

immediately raised his head and watched the spot where the energy ripples were gradually disappearing. When he saw that Xiao Yan was still standing in midair unscathed, he said, "Looks like it is a little difficult for Yun Shan to hold Xiao Yan behind today. Moreover, there is still Queen Medusa, whose strength is not weaker than Xiao Yan's, lurking by the side. If these two people were to combine their strength, even Yun Shan can only turtle up and hide."

"The current Yun Shan is also in a stubborn situation and has no choice but to continue. The First Elder of the Sect was killed by someone in front of so many people. Regardless of the other party's strength, he must take action. Otherwise, the Misty Cloud Sect will greatly lose face if this news were to spread. After all, this matter is different from last time." Fa Ma sighed, "Moreover, the enmity between both parties has already been completely formed. With Yun Shan's character, he would definitely not let a future enemy with such terrifying potential leave successfully."

"This matter was also something that Yun Leng asked for. He had nothing to do and still ran to Wu Tan City to go against the Xiao clan. Isn't this forcing Xiao Yan to become crazy? He thinks that he can do whatever he wants by using the Misty Cloud Sect's name, but he never expected that he would meet a ruthless figure this time around." Jia Xing Tian said faintly.

Fa Ma smiled bitterly and shook his head. He did not voice any opinions regarding this matter. Instead, he lifted his head and watched Xiao Yan's and Yun Shan's bodies, which had reappeared and muttered softly, "Ah, I hope they will not cause any injuries or deaths. Otherwise, it would be a great loss to the Jia Ma Empire."

"Heh, the Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect is only so-so." Xiao Yan gently flicked his sleeves in the sky, scattering the final assaulting energy ripple that had spread toward him. A cold smile surfaced on his delicate and handsome face.

Yun Shan's expression was icy cold as he watched Xiao Yan who was actually unhurt. A long while later, he slowly inhaled a breath of air and said in a cold voice, "The current you is indeed very strong. However, I

believe that there will always be a price for overdrawing your strength. My strength belongs to myself while your strength is borrowed or drawn excessively from yourself. As long as I delay you today, I don't believe that you can continue to maintain this strength!"

"The relationship between both sides has already reached a point where it is difficult to reconcile. Therefore, I will not let someone who could truly become a Dou Zong to successfully escape and continue to grow while carrying hatred for the Misty Cloud Sect within him before finally returning to obliterate my Misty Cloud Sect!" A thick and cold killing intent had actually began to shroud Yun Shan's words.

The entire place was completely silent. The words of Yun Shan undoubtedly expressed his intent to kill Xiao Yan. This was because he clearly understood that should Xiao Yan successfully escape, it would definitely be allowing the tiger to return to the mountains. In the future, the Misty Cloud Sect might pay an extremely great price for letting him escape.

TL: letting a tiger return to the mountains – idiom – letting a dangerous person escape and giving it the chance to exact revenge in the future

The expression of 'Xiao Yan' changed slightly. These words of Yun Shan were true. Although Xiao Yan was currently being controlled by Yao Lao, the latter could not truly and completely control Xiao Yan's body. Moreover, the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' that Xiao Yan had used earlier had exhausted quite a lot of Yao Lao's Spiritual Strength. If it were not for the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva', it was likely that this 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' would have caused Yao Lao to enter into a weakened state once again.

Even though Yao Lao did not enter into a weakened state because of the 'Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva', it was also as Yun Shan had said. He could not really borrow Xiao Yan's body to fight with Yun Shan for a long period of time. Once the time limit was up, he could only withdraw his Spiritual Strength. When that time comes, Xiao Yan, who had lost his protection, would definitely have difficulty escaping death.

“Teacher, let’s first leave this place. Yun Shan is very strong. The current us is not able to directly attack him. Moreover, the time that you can appear is also not very long.” A weak voice suddenly sounded in ‘Xiao Yan’s’ mind.

“Ke ke, relax. Although my current strength has weakened greatly, wanting to stop me with just Yun Shan alone is wishful thinking.” The old laughter comforted Xiao Yan’s emotions.

“However, it is indeed not suitable to go head on against him in today’s circumstances. The united formation of the Misty Cloud Sect is a little marvellous. Once it’s activated, it would be much more troublesome to leave. Although that Queen Medusa appears to be helping you, she would definitely be unwilling to join hands with you to kill Yun Shan. A counterattack by a Dou Zong just before his death is no trivial matter. It is impossible for her to take such a big risk just because of you.” Yao Lao mused for a moment before saying softly.

“Alright, today, I will not be overly entangled with him. Let’s leave here first. We will return here in the future, and teacher will definitely help you seek justice!”

“Ke ke, after leaving this time around, it may be a very long time before I return to the Jia Ma Empire. When that time comes, let me, your disciple, do it. At that time, my father’s disappearance and the humiliation of the clan being forced to move will be settled by me, myself.” The weak voice contained a faint vengeance. His father’s disappearance had caused Xiao Yan to completely place this hatred and fury on the Misty Cloud Sect. If it were not because of them, Xiao Zhan would not have been chased out of Wu Tan City and would naturally not suddenly disappear. Moreover, when he was killing Yun Leng, the Misty Cloud Sect’s hindrance as well as the killing intent that Yun Shan had displayed earlier had caused Xiao Yan to completely feel an abomination toward this sect.

“Ha ha, it is naturally good to have this pride.” Yao Lao smiled, feeling gratified. He said, “Since it’s like this, let us leave this place first. I cannot maintain control of your body much longer.”

In the sky, 'Xiao Yan' slowly lifted his head. His gaze took one look around and laughed loudly towards Yun Shan, "I have told you earlier that if I want to leave, there is no one in your Misty Cloud Sect who can stop me."

"Arrogant. Do you really think that our Misty Cloud Sect has relied on an undeserving reputation to stand in the Jia Ma Empire for so many years?" Yun Shan pulled slightly at the corner of his mouth. He suddenly waved his sleeves and a few white glows shot out from his sleeves. These white glows were scattered toward four corners of the sky. A short while later, the glow bursted brightly. A countless number of white threads were extended. In merely the blink of an eye, these white threads had covered the entire sky, finally forming a net that appeared and disappeared, shielding the entire sky.

"All Elders of the Misty Cloud Sect listen up. Form the 'Covering Sun Cloud Formation'!"

With a stern cry, nearly twenty figures stood and flashed from the square. The glow immediately brightened greatly. White-colored mist pervaded from the bodies of these Elders. Finally, they agglomerated into a sea of clouds in the sky, just like the last time. The only difference was that Yun Shan was the one in the middle of the sea of clouds.

The last time, Yun Leng, who was of the Dou Wang class, had relied on the 'Covering Sun Cloud Formation' to contend with Hai Bodong who was of the Dou Huang class. Now, the person controlling the formation had been replaced by Yun Shan, who had the strength of a Dou Zong. Without any doubt, the so called 'Covering Sun Cloud Formation' this time around would be even more terrifying.

"Withdraw!" Before the 'Covering Sun Cloud Formation' was formed, Yao Lao controlled Xiao Yan's body and appeared at where the white-colored energy was in a lightning-like manner. The thick white flame surged out from his palm and smashed ferociously against the white cloud.

"Bang!" The thick white flame smashed into the white-colored energy,

but it actually failed to break it in one blow. Instead, it was reflected by the soft feeling on it.

“It is indeed a little bizarre.” Yao Lao let out an ‘eh’ sound as he waved his hand and once again summoning out a cluster of thick white flame. After which, he tightly adhered it onto the white colored energy barrier. This time around, the flame did not bounce back. The hot temperature caused the white energy to become a little illusionary.

“You want to leave? It won’t be so easy!” Just as a hole was about to be incinerated out of the white barrier, a cold cry of Yun Shan sounded from behind ‘Xiao Yan’. As this cold cry was transmitted, there was a majestic force that was mixed with a sonic boom.

Yao Lao instantly turned around. He eyed the white-colored energy force that was swiftly shooting toward him. He waved his sleeves and a huge cluster of thick white flames surged out from his sleeves. Immediately, it swiftly began to agglomerate into an ice mirror that appeared to have been formed from white fire. In addition, there was a white flame which was curling upward being adhered to the surface of the ice mirror. The ice and flame merged, mutually, surviving in one body, giving it an extremely strange appearance.

“Bang!”

That energy pilliar smashed heavily into the ice mirror. When the two came into contact, the white-colored flame pounced turbulently forward. Any of the energy that had become contaminated by the flame was instantly frozen into solid ice pieces.

Although the white-colored flame was extremely strange, the force that was contained within the energy pillar was really too large. Therefore, when the white-colored flame had climbed to around half of the energy pillar, its energy was exhausted. Immediately, it was smashed into nothingness by the energy which was surging from the back.

The energy pilliar broke through the white-colored flame and violently smashed onto the ice mirror. Immediately, the latter began crumbling. Numerous crack lines covered the ice mirror which finally broke apart

with a 'crack' sound, turning into pieces of ice that permeated the air.

"Even if you have the help of the 'Heavenly Flame', it will not be an easy thing to leave today!" Yun Shan's body was suspended in the sea of clouds. The rich energy around him caused Yun Shan's body to emit a faint glow. He coldly watched Xiao Yan and his hands were swiftly rotated. The fog in front of him wiggled. A moment later, an enormous cloud bow, which was once summoned by Yun Leng, once again surfaced. This time around, the size of the cloud bow was nearly a few times larger than it had been the previous time. At a glance it appeared that the huge bow was one that could be used to shoot the sun down.

"This 'Covering Sun Cloud Formation' is indeed a little troublesome." Yao Lao frowned slightly as he eyed that huge cloud bow. His gaze swept in all directions. Suddenly, he said something softly to Xiao Yan in his heart.

A moment later, after Yao Lao had instructed some things, his body suddenly trembled lightly and immediately disappeared from midair.

Yao Lao's disappearance did not cause Yun Shan's expression to change. He slowly closed his eyes and his hands formed the shape of drawing the bow. After which, his body slowly swayed, as if Yun Shan was relying on his senses to search for the target to attack.

The sky suddenly descended into silence.

However, the silence did not persist for very long before it was suddenly broken. Yun Shan, who had shut his eyes abruptly opened them. The hand which he used to pull the bow no longer hesitated. He relaxed his finger and following its release, the large cloud arrow on the huge cloud bow in front of him cut through the cloud layer with a 'Chi' sound. It shot viciously toward a certain empty space.

The cloud arrow transformed into a white-colored flowing ray of light that instantly cut through the skyline. Just as it was about to strike that empty space, a turbulent thick white flame suddenly swept out, much like the flames of heaven descending and turned into a ripple shape that spread in all directions.

“Bang!”

When the two came into contact, another loud sound appeared. However, the thick white flame did not appear to have much effect this time around. It merely blocked the arrow for an instant before the terrifying cloud arrow broke through the flame. With a ‘xiu’ sound, it passed through a certain empty space. Unfortunately, not even a part of a human figure appeared. Similarly, there was not the slightest fresh blood appearing.

Yun Shan’s gaze stared intently at the spot where the cloud arrow shot past. When he saw that the cloud arrow had struck empty space, he was startled. His expression immediately and abruptly changed. He suddenly turned around and moved his hands. The surrounding fog swiftly agglomerated. An instant later, it formed a huge cloud colored shield in front of him.

The moment the white-colored cloud shield formed, a black figure suddenly flashed, and appeared from within the sea of clouds. The figure coldly watched Yun Shan who was behind the transparent cloud shield. As both of his hands moved, a green and white-colored flame actually appeared in his palm at the same time.

Yun Shan’s body trembled as he looked at the two flames. His gaze looked directly at the young man’s pair of eyes. He immediately noticed that the green and white color in his eyes had actually once again turned back to being a dark, black color. As he watched those dark black pupils, Yun Shan, for some reason, suddenly thought that the current Xiao Yan had perhaps returned to his true self.

“Since you want me to stay, then try the taste of this fire lotus!” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth lifted slightly as he spoke with a dark and cold smile. Earlier, Yao Lao had quietly informed him that once they were in close proximity, Xiao Yan should display his fiercest attack. This was because only Xiao Yan was able to control the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’!

TL Arron: Angry Buddha Lotus Flame is a cheat...

As the laughter fell, Xiao Yan's hands abruptly smashed heavily together. With Yao Lao's strength supporting him this time around, the speed at which the two colored flames merged was many times faster compared to the one earlier. In a muffled thundering sound, a green-white flame, that was around the size of a palm, swiftly rose from the middle of Xiao Yan's palm.

"Go!" The arc on the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth grew increasingly big. He let out a soft cry and the flame immediately shot over. Finally, it heavily smashed into the cloud colored shield in front of Yun Shan's slightly squinting eyes.

"Bang!"

Although the 'Angry Buddha Lotus Flame' this time around was not created as perfectly as the one prepared with great effort the last time, Yao Lao's powerful strength was integrated into it. Therefore, its strength was not any weaker than the 'Flame Splitting Tsunami' which Yao Lao had personally displayed earlier.

Following the thunderclap-like explosion being blasted, a fire lotus once again surfaced from within the sea of clouds. The cluster of energy clouds in the surroundings that were completely made up from energy had also become blurry from this attack.

Yun Shan's body swiftly descended. His expression was a little pale. An explosion at such a close proximity nearly caused him to receive the full impact of the fire lotus. Therefore, even though he had the cloud shield protecting him, he was still shaken until he had to leave the sea of clouds. Moreover, once he left the sea of clouds, he would naturally no longer be able to use the large formation.

Countless Misty Cloud Sect disciples in the square watched Yun Shan, who was shaken by Xiao Yan's attack until he actually had to leave the sea of clouds. They exchanged glances with one another and were speechless. For some unknown reason, a cold feeling rose from within their hearts.

"Grand-teacher." When she saw Yun Shan descending, Nalan Yanran's delicate hands could not resist covering her red lips as he cried out

involuntarily.

“It is really worthy of being a fight between Dou Zongs. If we were in such close proximity to the fire lotus explosion, we would most likely lose half of our life, no?” Fa Ma smiled bitterly and said.

“I thought that Xiao Yan could no longer use the green-colored flame. He has actually left it as a means to escape.” Jia Xing Tian shook his head and sighed.

“Xiao Yan’s strength appears to have become much weaker with the flow of time.” Fa Ma suddenly knit his eyebrows. As a tier five alchemist, his Spiritual Perception had far exceeded an ordinary Dou Huang’s. Therefore, he had promptly sense the slight change of Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan hesitated for a moment in the sky after he struck Yun Shan down from the sea of clouds. He abruptly clenched his teeth and his feet stepped gently on the empty air. His body fell abruptly and immediately shot explosively toward Yun Shan.

“Today, I will collect some interest!” Two colored flames swiftly shrouded both his hands. Xiao Yan swiftly approached Yun Shan who was falling. At this moment, the latter had been shaken by the terrifying explosion earlier until the Dou Qi in his body could not be connected. Hence, he could only watch as Xiao Yan approached.

“Old Fellow, since you have already given the order to chase and kill me, then I will kill you first!” A cold laughter sounded as Xiao Yan’s hands heavily smashed toward Yun Shan’s chest. Just as he was about to succeed, a panicked voice suddenly sounded, “Xiao Yan, no!”

When the voice sounded, a force also swiftly came attacking Xiao Yan’s back. He frowned slightly, turned his body and waved his hand gently. A white-colored flame shot out and incinerated the sharp sword aura until nothing was left. His eyes were cold as he watched Yun Yun who was holding a longsword in her hand as she was suspended in empty space. He said with a cold smile, “You also want to attack me?”

“I am the Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect. I must protect the Misty Cloud Sect’s reputation. Moreover, Yun Shan is my teacher. I cannot just

watch you hurt him.” Yun Yun said with a bitter smile.

“Do you think that I have any chance of surviving if I were to fall into his hands today?” Xiao Yan mocked.

Yun Yun was silent. There was a struggle on her pretty face.

Xiao Yan’s hands trembled slightly. He inhaled a deep breath of air, turned around suddenly and waved his hand, wanting to throw a flame toward Yun Shan who was falling.

Seeing Xiao Yan’s action, Yun Yun clenched her white teeth. She flapped the wind wings on her back and stabbed the longsword in her hand toward Xiao Yan’s back. No matter what, her position as the Sect Leader caused her to always remember the reputation of the sect. It was impossible for her to simply watch the reputation of the Misty Cloud Sect that was built up over a few generations be terminated by Xiao Yan.

The cold wind that was transmitted from behind his back caused Xiao Yan’s heart to quietly become much colder. Perhaps he was somewhat insignificant in her heart when compared to the Misty Cloud Sect.

Xiao Yan sighed softly in his heart. He slowly shook his head and gave up chasing and killing Yun Shan. He turned around and watched the attacking Yun Yun indifferently.

“Be careful!”

At the moment when Xiao Yan turned around, two hurried cries suddenly sounded. One came from Yun Yun’s mouth while the other was a warning from Yao Lao in his body.

The cry had just sounded when Xiao Yan also sensed something. He hurried to turn his head and a white figure flashed across his pupils. A dense and thick face immediately appeared. It was shockingly Yun Shan who had been falling!

“It’s over, Xiao Yan!”

A fist that carried a sonic boom and an enormous force of pressure caused ripples to appear in the space surrounding the fist. The fist that

was wrapped in fog violently smashed against the back of the unprepared Xiao Yan like a lightning storm in front of Xiao Yan's tightly narrowed pupils.

“Glug!”

The enormous force that was transmitted from his back caused Xiao Yan's expression to pale. A mouthful of fresh blood was finally involuntarily spat out. Borrowing the pushing force from this great strength, Xiao Yan's body shot explosively backward.

“Huh.” The situation in the sky had actually changed suddenly in a split second. This change caused the faces of everyone below to be stunned.

“Yun Shan, with your position, you actually launched a sneak attack. You actually have the face to do so?” Hai Bodong could not resist shouting angrily as his face changed while he looked at Xiao Yan who had vomited blood and pulled back.

At the side, Jia Xing Tian and the others also frowned slightly. Clearly, they did not approve of Yun Shan's action, but they did not open their mouths to say anything.

Yun Shan's face was cold as he ignored Hai Bodong. He clearly knew just what kind of terrifying potential Xiao Yan possessed. If he were allowed to leave, the Misty Cloud Sect might really be destroyed in his hands in the future. Therefore, even if he had to bare some notoriety, he must kill Xiao Yan today!

While the sound of wind whizzed past his ear, Xiao Yan wiped the blood stain from the corner of his mouth. His eyes coldly eyed the pale faced Yun Yun. He flipped his hand and a pale-blue colored inner vest appeared in his hand. He held the inner vest and shook his head in self-ridicule. After which, he violently threw it toward Yun Yun.

“Regardless of whether you are Yun Zhi or Yun Yun, we no longer have any relationship in the future! I will return this thing to you!”

The decisive words were wrapped by Dou Qi and coldly transmitted into Yun Yun's ears. Immediately, the already pale face of the latter became

even more pale.

As a reflexive condition, she extended her hand to receive the pale blue inner vest that was shot over. The back of her teeth bit her bottom red lip. She lowered her head and watched the inner vest which was wiped clean despite being covered with crack lines. For a moment, she was completely dull.

Xiao Yan's body collided heavily into the white-colored energy barrier. Two colored flames surged turbulently out of his back. The two flames intertwined with one another and the white colored energy swiftly melted. Immediately, Xiao Yan was like a two colored falling star as he smashed into the dense forest of the mountain where one could not see the edge.

"Ha ha, Yun Shan, I, Xiao Yan, will imprint this palm today into my heart. In the future, I will make you pay ten times for this!"

The body swiftly fell into the deep mountain while that thick laugh of Xiao Yan still reverberated in the sky above the square. The killing intent contained in the laughter caused a chill in some of the Misty Cloud Sect's disciples to surge forth.

Yun Shan's face was green as he watched the spot where Xiao Yan had disappeared. He waved his hand. His cold cry echoed throughout the sect.

"All the Deacons and Elders in the Misty Cloud Sect listen up! Lead your groups and immediately enter the deep regions of the mountain. Find Xiao Yan. There is a special mark which I have left in his body. He will definitely be unable to escape!"

"Capture him, dead or alive!"

Chapter 367: The Start of the Great Escape

Looking within the vast, dense jungle, one could only see a never ending verdant-green color. A gentle breeze would occasionally blow over. Immediately afterwards, numerous huge green ripples would begin spreading through the verdant sea of trees from near and far, finally disappearing at the edge of one's sight. It gave a very spectacular appearance.

Above the sea of trees was the blue sky. A few human figures occasionally flew by in the sky above. Their sharp eagle-like gazes would scan the forest below in detail. However, the size of this forest was far too large and the green waves which rolled one after another also covered most of the things under the dense forest. Therefore, no matter how they searched inch by inch, they still could not find their target.

A few human figures swept past this dense stretch of forest. After realizing it was futile, their helpless gazes interacted with one another in mid air before they shook their heads. They then displayed a hand signal to one another and separated, heading in different directions.

Under the dense and lush woodlands, a towering tree pierced the sky. Around it, however, there were an unknown number of trees which were even larger and taller. Therefore, it did not appear conspicuous.

At the top of this tree, there was a branch that extended out. The branch was surrounded by lush, green leaves. Hence, if one were to take a quick glance at it, one would really have difficulty discovering the things that were hidden within it.

"Hu." The sounds of someone breathing as they suppressed pain could be heard from beneath the thick foliage. Immediately, the subtle sound of gritting teeth appeared. A moment later, the leaves of the trees trembled slightly and a face with a tight frown was exposed. The head carefully turned as he scanned the empty sky. His gaze then swept in the directions where the few human figures had spread out before sighing softly and sitting on a thick, rough branch. His back leaned against the tree trunk

and cold sweat repeatedly streamed down from his forehead.

“Teacher? Are you still here?” Xiao Yan let out a few long breaths before hurriedly crying out softly within his heart.

“Ah.” A long while later, a somewhat tired old voice replied from within Xiao Yan’s heart, “Little Fellow. This time around, things are not looking too good. It was a huge burden and caused great exhaustion when using the ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’ twice in a row. If you had not let me consume the ‘Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva’, I might well have descended into a slumber once again.”

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and said, “I was too impulsive this time around. However, my father is missing.”

“Ah, I know. You, child, care a lot about your father-son relationship. Otherwise, given your character, it is unlikely that you would be so reckless as to charge into the Misty Cloud Sect and even kill Yun Leng in public.” Yao Lao smiled before continuing, “However, you need not blame yourself either. There is always something that one must protect with their life. Otherwise, is one considered human if they have no desire? Even if you become a strong person, that kind of loneliness and solitude will cause a person to become crazy.”

“Thank you teacher.” Xiao Yan sighed in relief and said in a soft, grateful voice.

“Ke ke, what is there to thank between the two of us?” Yao Lao laughed. Immediately, his voice became a little more serious, “Little Fellow, we are still within the boundaries of the Misty Cloud Sect’s influence. Therefore, we must leave here as soon as possible. Although Yun Shan may have been badly injured after eating two continuous ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flame’, those Elders and Deacons of the Misty Cloud Sect aren’t useless people. Moreover, there is another Dou Huang, Yun Yun. The current me has exhausted too much Spiritual Strength because of the two ‘Angry Buddha Lotus Flames’. At the very least, I cannot supply you with energy which you can randomly squander like before. Additionally, that blow of Yun Shan’s earlier has left an energy imprint within your body. The

current me can only try my best to suppress the oscillation that the energy imprint emits. If I were to forcefully destroy it, Yun Shan would immediately sense it.”

Xiao Yan nodded quietly. His fist gradually tightened as he raised his head. His gaze passed through the tiny gaps between the leaves and stared at the blue sky. His heart clearly knew the killing intent that Yun Shan had toward him. At this moment, the Misty Cloud Sect might already be pouring the entire sect’s strength to capture him. In his current condition, he would be able to handle some Misty Cloud Sect disciples at the very most. If deacons or even Elders were to find him, it would not be difficult for the other party to delay him, if he could even fight them. When that time came, should the Misty Cloud Sect’s troops hear the noise and arrive, Xiao Yan might really end up dying in this unending forest.

“First, let’s first head deep into the mountains to avoid the search parties from the Misty Cloud Sect. I am currently in an unsightly condition. If I don’t let these injuries heal properly, it is likely that fleeing would also be a problem.” Xiao Yan wiped the remaining bloodstain off of the corner of his mouth and said softly.

“Ah, that’s good. An alchemist need not worry about injuries. Although your injuries this time around are quite severe, ke ke, with teacher currently awake, I will naturally let you recover at the fastest speed possible.” Yao Lao said with a smile.

Xiao Yan nodded his head. He had absolute confidence in Yao Lao’s refining skills. He grabbed the tree trunk with his hand and slowly rose to his feet.

“At this moment, there are search parties consisting of Misty Cloud Sect disciples to the east, south, and north of our current position. Therefore, we can only flee towards the west side of the forest.” Yao Lao remained, “Moreover, pay attention to the figures in the sky. Most of those fellows are the Elders of the Misty Cloud Sect and their strength are at least of the Dou Wang class. If you were to unluckily bump into one of them in such a state, it would be troublesome.”

“I know.” Xiao Yan responded. He carefully parted the leaves and cautiously swept his gaze below. Only when he did not discover any traces of danger did he use his hands to hug the tree trunk and swiftly slide down like an agile monkey.

When he was a few meters from the ground, Xiao Yan loosened his grip. His feet gently kicked the tree trunk and his body curled in midair before flipping around and allowing him to land on one knee with his hands on the ground, supporting himself. The sound emitted when he landed was barely audible.

Xiao Yan’s sharp gaze swiftly scanned his surroundings. He then stood up and charged into a cluster of dense jungle. Right as he entered the dense sea of plants, a seven colored glow instantly flashed. Immediately, Xiao Yan halted his footsteps as his entire body emitted a cold sweat. His gaze hurriedly swept in front of him. Immediately, he could not help but rejoice. The seven colored glow was from the Heaven Swallowing Python that had turned into its snake form. For others, it was extremely hard trying to find Xiao Yan but for the Heaven Swallowing Python that had been living together with Xiao Yan ever since it’s birth, even the slightest smells in the air was like a huge roadmap.

“Hei, little fellow, is it now your turn to control the body?” Xiao Yan extended his hand. The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ obediently wiggled over, extending its tongue and emitting a hissing sound toward Xiao Yan.

“Hee hee, that’s good. That’s good.” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth parted when he saw the actions of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’. The joy on his face was difficult to hide. Although the strength of the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ was not as great Queen Medusa’s, this little fellow was unlike her Majesty in that it would actually go all out upon Xiao Yan’s orders as long as he gave it sufficient food to eat. On the other hand, Xiao Yan was so furious that his teeth itched when he recalled how Queen Medusa, that bastardly woman, actually stood idly by the side during his big fight with Yun Shan earlier.

Xiao Yan swiftly took out a bottle of ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ from his storage ring and used a small jade rod to dip a few drops of it and

threw it into the 'Heaven Swallowing Python's' mouth. Immediately, the little fellow jumped around, extremely lively. It circled around Xiao Yan's body a few times before emitting a 'suo' sound and entered Xiao Yan's sleeve.

"Hu, lucky. At least there is a talisman which can protect me." Xiao Yan gently patted his sleeves and let out a long sigh. With the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' around, he would at least not be afraid of being held back should he be discovered by one of the Misty Cloud Sect's Elders.

"Let's go. There seems to be some people heading this way. It is inadvisable for the current you to fight with another person. I see that your Qi is currently uneven, hovering up and down. It actually appears like a state where your strength is about to rise. Looks like these big fights that you have recently endured were of great benefit to you. Quickly find a quiet place to recuperate and rest. Otherwise, this opportunity to raise your strength will be wasted." Yao Lao's deep voice suddenly sounded from Xiao Yan's heart.

Xiao Yan was startled upon hearing this. Immediately, he nodded his head in surprise. This was likely one of the few pieces of good news in a bad situation like this. In this kind of situation where he faced extermination on all sides, increasing his strength by a little would naturally mean that his own chances of survival would increase a little.

Xiao Yan turned his head around and eyed the dense woods behind him. A cold smile spilled from the corner of his mouth as he softly said, "Misty Cloud Sect, Yun Shan, it looks like the grudge between the two of us has been completely formed. I hope that you will not regret this in the future! If you think that I, Xiao Yan, am one of those spineless people who would come begging with his tail hung between his legs after suffering a loss, I'm afraid that you are really mistaken."

Back then, just because of a 'Three Year Agreement', Xiao Yan could bite the bullet and train for three years, causing him to be like a lone wolf in the grasslands. When he was wounded, he would retreat temporarily. Quickly following this, he would be like a ghost and a maggot in one's tarsal bone, around and waiting to take revenge with a killing blow.

As the voice that contained a thick, dark coldness fell, Xiao Yan's foot stepped on the ground. His body turned into a black shadow that swiftly fled into that dark, black forest.

Following Xiao Yan's disappearance, the spot slowly descended into silence. Around ten minutes later, ten figures abruptly shot out from the dense forest. They held longswords in their hands while they scanned the surroundings with grave expressions. When they saw that there was no movement, they heaved a gentle sigh of relief. They exchanged glances and all of them smiled bitterly and shook their heads. The signal flares which were tightly held in their right hands, ready to be released at any moment, were also stuffed back into their chest pocket. When faced with a terrifying figure who could even force their old Sect Leader back, it was only natural that these people gave their full attention.

A Misty Cloud Sect disciple who was the leader of the group slowly stepped forward. He waved the longsword and the glow of the sword flashed, leaving an obscure symbol on a nearby tree. Once he did this, he turned his head and softly said, "We have already completed searching this spot. If we continue forward, we will enter into the north-west of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. The rank of the Magical Beasts there isn't low. It would be quite difficult if we were to search there. Looks like we have to inform the Elders to use the flying units."

While he spoke, he swiftly took out a bamboo whistle from his chest pocket and placed it to his lips. He blew it gently and a slightly sharp sound was slowly emitted from the bamboo. It finally formed a wave-like shape that swiftly spread throughout the huge forest...

Chapter 368: Recuperation

In the dense forest where tall trees stood, there would occasionally be spots of light that trickled through the gaps of the lush canopy of branches and leaves that shielded the earth from the hot sunlight. The light shone in bits and pieces onto the ground, forming a totally natural picture made of specks of light, appearing beautiful.

It was completely quiet within the forest. Occasionally, there would be a low roar emitted by an unknown Magical Beast in the distance. It would pass through the hindrances of the dense forest, and would reverberate unceasingly throughout the forest.

“Suo.”

The undergrowth of the quiet forest suddenly moved. Immediately, a black figure shot out. His feet gently pressed against a tree branch which horizontally extended from the trunk. After which, he pushed his body off the branch and landed on another tree branch a few meters above the ground. His sharp, eagle-like eyes scanned everything below him in detail before he sighed in relief. He was also a little doubtful as he muttered softly, “The mountain range behind the Misty Cloud Mountain is connected directly to the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Logically speaking, the current me should have charged into the Magical Beast Mountain Range, right? But, why is it that until now, I have yet to meet any Magical Beasts trying to stop me?”

“That is due to the ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ in your sleeves.” An old laughter sounded in Xiao Yan’s heart, “The ‘Heaven Swallowing Python’ is an Ancient Unique Beast. An ordinary Magical Beast would feel fear within their hearts upon smelling its scent. Moreover, the ‘Heaven Swallowing Beast’ currently possesses the strength of a Dou Wang class. Which ordinary Magical Beast would dare to reveal itself in front of it?”

“So it is this little fellow’s blessing.” Xiao Yan suddenly understood upon hearing this. He gently patted his sleeves and laughed softly.

“But the Misty Cloud Sect’s groups that have come to search for you

aren't as lucky. From what I can tell, they were attacked by at least three waves of Magical Beasts in just this short distance. Although they were not hurt, their chasing speed has been reduced by quite a large amount." Yao Lao smiled and said gloatingly.

Xiao Yan laughed coldly. His gaze once again swept across his surroundings, but he had yet to find the best hiding spot. He knit his eyebrows together immediately and shook his head helplessly. As he pressed his feet gently against the tree trunk, his body became like a large bat that spread its wings as it passed through the dense forest, moving past the branches of the trees within its path. He continued to head forward and flee while searching for the best place to hide.

In a forest that was filled with huge trees and Magical Beasts, wanting to find a spot to hide from danger that was also free from any disturbance was undoubtedly somewhat difficult. However, Xiao Yan was considered quite lucky. As the sky gradually darkened, he finally found a good spot.

Xiao Yan was passing through a large area of dense foliage when a dangerous ravine, that was around ten meters wide, appeared in his sight. He slowed his speed and slowly walked toward the edge of the ravine. Lowering his head, he glanced at the dark chasm that seemed to be bottomless. He then lifted his head and slowly swept his gaze at the precipitous mountain wall on the other side. A moment later, his gaze suddenly stopped on a dark mountain cave. This mountain cave was around ten plus meters from the top of the mountain. It did not appear to be created by a human. Instead, it seemed to be forcefully made by a kind of sharp-clawed Magical Beast.

"This place is an excellent one. It's even covered by fog. Even if there are people flying over, they will have great difficulty discerning anything." Xiao Yan's expression carried joy as he studied the position of that dark mountain cave. On that precipitous mountain wall, there were quite a number of mountain caves which were similar to this dark one. However, only this mountain cave had such an excellent a position when compared to the rest. Xiao Yan stood by the edge of the ravine and eyed the mountain cave. If one did not examine it closely, they would only see a

faint fog rising from deep within the ravine.

After inspecting it for a while, Xiao Yan's shoulders trembled slightly. A huge pair of Purple Cloud Wings sprung out. He leapt forward and jumped into the ravine; wild wind blew past his ears. Xiao Yan flapped his wings and he swiftly arrived in front of the mountain cave. He stayed suspended in the air in front of it instead of going in immediately. The dangers of the Magical Beast Mountain Range were peerless, with danger lurking everywhere. If one was not cautious in dealing with them, they wouldn't even know how they died.

Xiao Yan lifted his sleeves gently and the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' flashed out. His finger pointed toward the mountain cave. The latter appeared to have understood. It let out a hiss and turned into a seven-colored flash, which shot directly into the cave.

When he saw the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' flash into the cave, Xiao Yan hurriedly withdrew some distance away. After which, he quietly waited.

The wait merely lasted for less than a minute when a shady wind came sprinting out from within the cave. A huge black figure quickly shot out. It was a flying Magical Beast with a fierce appearance that was terrified as it flew out from within. It immediately emitted an awful scream and shot directly into the sky, finally disappearing over the horizon.

"Hu, good fellow. It was actually a Winged Lion Beast. This is a rank three Magical Beast that can contend with a Da Dou Shi." Xiao Yan was stunned as he watched the huge Magical Beast which had shot into the sky. He shook his head and laughed bitterly, "It is fortunate that I have the help of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python'. Otherwise, with my current state, it would be likely that I would have had to exhaust a great amount of strength in order to oust it from the cave."

Not long after the Winged Lion Beast fled, the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' flew out from within the cave. It stayed suspended in front of Xiao Yan, hissing while flicking its snake's tongue in front of Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan lifted his hand and the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' returned

into his sleeve. Only then did he flap his wings and fly into the cave while feeling assured. His feet landed on the hard mountain rock and a wave of pale color surged up onto his face. He let out a few intense coughs. Following his coughs, the Purple Cloud Wings on his back also automatically turned back into tattoos and shrunk onto his back.

“I am indeed severely injured, ah. After only using the Purple Cloud Wings for a mere few minutes, the interior of my body has already turned into this state.” Xiao Yan wiped off the thread of blood that had flowed from the corner of his mouth as he spoke softly with a bitter smile.

Xiao Yan slowly walked into the interior of the cave which was quite spacious. Although the stench that faintly lingered caused Xiao Yan to frown slightly, the current him, who was faced with being encircled from all directions, naturally was not in the mood to bother about such trifling matters. He flicked his finger and a couple of Moonlight Stones shot out from within the space ring. They landed steadily within the gaps on the mountain wall and their faint light immediately shone and permeated throughout the cave.

Xiao Yan eyed the well-lit interior of the cave and then took a look at the sky outside which had already become completely dark. He thought quietly for a moment before coming to the entrance of the cave. He used all his strength to push a large rock over, which coincidentally blocked over half of the entrance, which prevented the well lit cave from being too obvious in the darkness of night.

After finishing all of these tasks, Xiao Yan finally let out a long sigh of relief. At that moment, the fatigue from fleeing for nearly an entire day slowly rose from deep within his heart, and actually caused his eyelids to become a little heavy.

“Now is not the time to rest.” Just as Xiao Yan could no longer resist and was about to plant his head on the ground and fall into a deep sleep, Yao Lao’s gentle cry suddenly rang out, giving Xiao Yan a start. His eyelids which were about to be folded were hurriedly opened. With a bitter laugh, he quickly took two steps back and found a clean stone platform where he sat cross-legged.

The moment Xiao Yan sat down, the dark black ring shook gently. Yao Lao's illusionary body slowly floated out.

"Teacher." Xiao Yan scratched his head and smiled awkwardly as he watched Yao Lao appear.

Yao Lao shook his head helplessly. He beckoned with his hand and the storage ring on Xiao Yan's finger left the latter's hand. Finally, it was suspended above Yao Lao's palm.

"You should first recuperate from the mess within your body. I will refine some medicinal pills that can help to speed up the recovery of your internal injuries. You must recover at the fastest pace possible. Otherwise, it will be too dangerous." Yao Lao's Spiritual Strength swept across the interior of the storage ring as he ordered.

"Ah." Xiao Yan nodded. He ceased speaking any nonsense and his hands formed the training seal in front of him. He closed his eyes and his originally hurried breathing gradually became calm and slow.

Yao Lao nodded in satisfaction when he saw that Xiao Yan had abandoned his distracting thoughts and entered into his training state so quickly. He flicked his finger slightly and medicinal ingredients flashed and appeared from within the storage ring one after another after which they levitated around Yao Lao.

"This little fellow has really stored quite a lot of medicinal ingredients. It really saves me the trouble of going to search for medicine." As Yao Lao studied the medicinal ingredients that were suspended by his side, he nodded slightly before waving his hand. Immediately, a thick white-colored flame soared and burned. He waved his finger and the medicinal ingredients were orderly yet swiftly thrown into the flame one after another. Compared to the method which Xiao Yan had used to refine the medicinal pill at the Alchemist Grand Meeting, Yao Lao's smooth refining method that was like a drifting cloud and flowing water which caused everyone to truly understand what an Alchemist Grandmaster was.

The faint glow from the Moonlight Stones the darkness from creeping into the cave past the entrance. Only the crackling of the medicinal

ingredients within the flame could be heard within the quiet interior of the cave. The two people within the cave had their labor clearly divided and were busy doing what they needed to.

The silent training continued for nearly two to three hours. Only then did the eyelids of Xiao Yan, who had his eyes tightly shut, tremble slightly. He then slowly opened his eyes. After three hours of recuperation, his originally pale, white face had some additional rosiness which represented vitality.

Xiao Yan let out a long breath of pent up air that had been lingering in his chest for a long time. His expression became a little brighter. He lifted his head and eyed Yao Lao, who was standing at the entrance of the cave, observing the movement outside after completing the refining a long while ago. He smiled gently and said, "Although my injuries are quite serious, the disorderly condition in my body is suppressed. What teacher said is true. The force and blood in my body is rising in an unstable manner. It was indeed a prelude to my strength rising."

Yao Lao smiled and nodded. He turned his body and gently flicked his finger. A medicinal pill that was emerald in color shot toward Xiao Yan. The latter agilely grabbed it.

"Consume it. With this, the injuries within your body should be able to completely heal. The medicinal effect of the 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill' that you consumed was extremely strong and you were unable to completely absorb all of it. Most of the medicinal effects were deposited within your body instead. It is not good for your body to leave it in your body like that. I have mixed the 'Bone Chilling Flame' within this medicinal pill. You may feel a little pain after consuming it. However, it is able to evaporate and release all the medicinal effects that have accumulated within your body. This time around, you can use this opportunity to absorb them. It really depends on your luck just how much your strength can be raised." Yao Lao shook his head and said, "Quite a number of defects have appeared in your body during the time that I wasn't around. That 'Searing Poison' is also vicious stuff. Once you have recuperated from your injuries, I will think of a way to help you settle it."

Xiao Yan's heart felt warmth as he heard the great number of words that Yao Lao rumbled on about. He nodded slightly. He was finally much more at ease with his teacher beside him. That feeling was like a child finding a dependable support, causing him to rest assured.

Xiao Yan stuffed the medicinal pill into his mouth and once again closed his eyes. His mind sunk into his body and began this great advancement!

Yao Lao smiled and nodded as he saw Xiao Yan close his eyes and once again begin his training. He sat by the entrance to the cave and carelessly played with and twisted the storage ring which he had taken from Xiao Yan's hand. A long while later, his finger trembled slightly and a soft 'huh' sound was emitted from his mouth.

"Huh?"

Yao Lao flicked his finger and a broken, black-colored jade piece suddenly appeared in Yao Lao's hand. His palm gently rubbed this damaged jade piece and his gaze became somewhat fixated.

This piece of black-colored jade was surprisingly the cheap item that Xiao Yan obtained back at the Alchemist Association when searching for treasures.

Chapter 369: Advancement!

His body was within a furnace: this was the only thing that Xiao Yan currently felt.

After swallowing the medicinal pill, a fiery feeling suddenly erupted from his lower abdomen. Immediately, it turned into numerous streams of heat that forced their way into every vein of his body in a turbulent manner. The high temperature finally caused a faint, heavy gas to appear within his Qi Paths.

The high temperature streams gradually became hotter with the increase in the circulation speed, resulting in the corner of Xiao Yan's mouth gently twitching involuntarily after each complete cycle. What Yao Lao said was true, the small part of his flame that had been added to the pill really caused him to suffer.

While the hot flow may have caused Xiao Yan to feel some pain, the effect was also very notable. As the threads of faint, hot, heavy gas seeped out of his Qi Paths and finally circled around the interior of his body, Xiao Yan could clearly sense that large waves of concealed energy within some parts of his body were like a layer of ice that had been melted by the heat, finally revealing itself. From the looks of it, it seemed that this was the medicinal strength that had been deposited in his body that Yao Lao had mentioned.

This medicinal strength that had been deposited was vaporized by the hot, heavy gas; turning it into a faint energy fog which rose slowly. The fog would adhere itself to the Qi Paths, merging with them before continuing through the rest of the Qi Paths. In the end, it formed a complete cycle, turning the fog into pure energy. The energy was then poured into that rhombus-shaped energy crystal within the vortex. Upon receiving these waves of pure energy, the crystal body, which appeared a little dim due to over exhaustion, once again emitted a faint glow, lighting up the interior of the vortex until it appeared to be transparent.

Some of the misted energy also adhered to his bones and cells. When

faced with such pure energy, the bones and cells in his body had also become much greedier. With a wiggling speed that could not be seen by the naked eye, they swiftly swallowed the energy fog that came close. Once they had completely swallowed the energy, Xiao Yan could clearly sense that his bones, muscles, cells, etc., which had been injured after the big fight, were quickly being restored to their peak condition.

Xiao Yan's heart gave a gentle sigh of relief as he sensed the Dou crystal being gradually filled with energy. His mind once again settled down as he used all his strength to control the overflowing clouds of energy within his body, gathering them together and finally agglomerating them into a turbulent energy flow. Once the flow completed one circulation within his body, it was poured unceasingly toward the Dou crystal within the vortex. The thumb sized crystal was like a bottomless pit when faced with the energy which was being poured into it unceasingly, not rejecting any of it, regardless of how large the accumulated energy was.

The medicinal pill of Yao Lao may not be something high-tiered. However, it was able to perform a sort of instigative role, completely dragging out all of the medicinal strength which Xiao Yan had deposited into his body over a short period of time. After which, it used this large amount of energy to swiftly restore Xiao Yan's injured body. This method of leveraging another's energy to heal was likely something that even Fa Ma would have difficulty performing.

As an orthodox 'Medicinal Pot', the number of various medicinal pills which Xiao Yan had consumed were basically impossible to count. Moreover, Xiao Yan did not completely absorb most of these medicinal pills. After accumulating all of these over time, the energy deposited was naturally very large. After being dragged out by that medicinal pill of Yao Lao, the deposited medicinal strength was finally completely released and used. The extent of the energy had far exceeded what Xiao Yan, or even Yao Lao had expected.

TL: Medicinal Pot = someone who eats a ton of pills, usually used to describe the sick/young masters

Wave after wave of energy mist rose never endingly from all over Xiao

Yan's body. If anyone could currently see through his skin and look within Xiao Yan's body, that person would likely widen his eyes while being completely shocked as he saw all the fog that had gathered throughout Xiao Yan's body. Even his internal organs were completely covered by the dense energy fog.

Xiao Yan was naturally unable to take control of every detail with such a large amount of energy fog being drawn out. Therefore, there were some that managed to escape and began to randomly wander through his body. In an instant, those bones, muscles, etc., within Xiao Yan's body appeared to suddenly possess their own intelligence and began to use various different kinds of methods to swallow the energy fog that had wandered over.

Although swallowing the energy in this manner allowed Xiao Yan to clearly sense that his body was becoming increasingly stronger, the parts in Xiao Yan's body, the bones, muscles, and internal organs had an accommodation capacity that could only be increased if one were to undergo intense training. Thus, each one had their own limits. Once they absorbed more than that limit, it was likely that they would end up with the terrifying fate of bursting apart. Upon thinking of the final result of how the bones or internal organs, etc., could suddenly form a few crack lines with a 'crack' sound, Xiao Yan shuddered with fear.

Therefore, he naturally did not dare to allow the bones and muscles to swallow as much of the energy as they wanted. He immediately and hurriedly increased his control over the energy fog within his body. Even after he did this, however, Xiao Yan could still faintly sense that his skin was emitting a fiery pain. He knew that this was due to the energy fog having already corroded the surface of his skin.

Within the mountain cave, Yao Lao frowned slightly as he watched Xiao Yan's skin, which had actually turned red. He muttered softly, "Why has this little fellow's body accumulated so much medicinal strength?" He mused for a moment before temporarily storing the broken jade fragment in his hand. He flicked his finger gently and a green light uncurled and rose immediately. It followed the wind and expanded, finally turning into a

green lotus which slowly fell.

Yao Lao glanced at the magnificent-looking green lotus before waving his sleeves toward Xiao Yan. A gentle force slid across and lifted the latter before smoothly placing him on the green lotus.

After Xiao Yan landed on the green lotus, a warm, green-colored circular glow slowly rose from within it. As the circle of light rose, Xiao Yan's fiery red skin immediately became dull. His face, which had contained some pain also finally became relaxed.

The warm feeling that was transmitted from outside Xiao Yan's body was also sensed by him. He immediately sighed in relief as he muttered to himself with a bitter smile, "Dammit. The injuries in my body have already completely recovered. Why is there still so much excess energy?"

Xiao Yan gradually recovered his calm after letting out a curse. He quietly thought for a while and already had a plan. "Since there is such external strength, I will use it to break through. This opportunity is the best one!"

Once Xiao Yan made up his mind, he did not procrastinate any longer. He focused his mind and the energy fog which was overflowing from his body suddenly surged. The waves of fog appeared to have been towed by something as they were swiftly dragged toward his lower abdomen.

As the enormous energy fog became increasingly close to the vortex, its size also drastically decreased. Its size may have become small, but some moisture began to appear in the space between the fog. When the large clump of fog entered into his Qi Paths, the fog actually completely disappeared. Replacing it was a cluster of emerald-like pure liquid energy. There were even some solid, tiny crystals that were trapped within that liquid energy.

The emerald liquid followed the same route that was determined by the 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method and completed one full circulation. After which, it quietly stopped at the entrance of the vortex. The force which was slowly flowing was like a huge flood which was about to be discharged.

“This will determine whether or not I can break through.”

Xiao Yan whispered softly in his heart as he eyed the huge cluster of emerald energy. With a thought from his mind, the strength which was blocking the entrance of the vortex instantly disappeared. The surging energy immediately emitted a loud sound like that of a waterfall smashing down as it charged into the vortex.

The large amount of energy swarmed into the vortex and violently smashed against the rhombus-shaped Dou crystal in the middle of the vortex.

“Bang!” The moment the energy swarmed into the Dou Crystal, a roaring sound resounded within Xiao Yan’s mind. In an instant, he had nearly failed to even maintain his training state.

The turbulent energy poured into the Dou Crystal unceasingly. By the end of the process, the size of the crystal had actually grown a lot larger after absorbing this large amount of energy.

Following the expansion of the Dou Crystal’s size, Xiao Yan’s strong spiritual perception could clearly sense that his own strength was swiftly soaring toward the barrier that indicated the difference between the two levels.

Within the cave, Yao Lao eyed Xiao Yan, whose face had become as shiny as jade. He fondled his beard and nodded slightly. With his strength, he could naturally sense the strength of Xiao Yan’s breath rising steadily.

“Ding.” At a certain instance within the quiet cave, a soft groan, that was barely noticeable, was quietly emitted from Xiao Yan’s body.

Following the appearance of this quiet moan, the force exuded from Xiao Yan’s body suddenly soared greatly.

“He has already broke through to a two star Da Dou Shi? This is actually even faster than what I had expected. The medicinal strength deposited within this little fellow’s body is actually able to reach this large of a degree?” With Yao Lao’s strength, that soft moan would naturally not be able to escape his senses. An expression of shock immediately flashed

across his eyes as he spoke in surprise.

Given Xiao Yan's current strength, he would originally would have needed at least two or three months of time to raise his strength by one level if he trained normally. Moreover, this was already considered to be quite fast. After he had gone to the Misty Cloud Sect, the repeated fighting with those above his level caused him to end up in unfavorable situations many times. However, the benefits that Xiao Yan obtained from those situations was something that even Yao Lao hadn't been able to completely estimate.

Fighting was, after all, the best way to quickly raise one's strength. The extreme battles which Xiao Yan had experienced during this period of time were like having constructed a canal. The large amount of medicinal strength currently present was like water being poured into that canal. Now that everything had fallen into place, this was the perfect opportunity for Xiao Yan to raise his strength. This process ran so perfectly that it had even exceeded Yao Lao's expectations.

Not long after Yao Lao's surprised voice fell, another soft groan was suddenly emitted from within Xiao Yan's body, reverberating etherally within the cave.

Yao Lao's hand which was fondling his beard slowly paused. This time around, even Yao Lao could not keep his cool. His mouth was agape as he watched Xiao Yan, whose breath was actually still rising swiftly. A long while later, he finally let out a long sigh and smiled as said, "Hee, he is indeed a fellow that is full of surprises. Today, I really want to see what level you, this little thing, are going to reach?"

Chapter 370: Skyfire Three Mysterious Change!

After the two soft groans were consecutively released within the mountain cave, Xiao Yan, who could have continued to raise his strength by an additional star did not use this force to continue charging upward. Instead, Xiao Yan slowly stabilized his Qi and began to completely digest the energy that had suddenly and abruptly soared. This was something that Yao Lao did not expect.

Yao Lao's hand stroked his beard and observed the closed-eyed young man, whose face was like warm jade. He mused for a moment and immediately came to a sudden realization before nodding in a gratified manner. He smiled again and said, "Being able to maintain his original state of mind in the face of strength and knowing when to withdraw in contentment without being greedy or arrogant is not easy. Not bad. Not bad."

The two repeated 'not bad' were sufficient to see Yao Lao's admiration in regards to Xiao Yan's current performance. Although Xiao Yan could actually borrow the medicinal strength and directly become a four star Da Dou Shi, training was, after all, not something that could be accomplished overnight. After repeatedly raising his strength by two stars today, Xiao Yan would already have some difficulty stabilizing his body's condition. If he were to raise his strength once again, it was likely that his body's superficial state would become his largest obstacle the next time he tried to advance!

A person who had a superficial interior and a poor distribution of energy within his body would be inferior to a person whose body was full and whose energy was controlled and properly distributed. Xiao Yan was extremely clear regarding this point. Back then, his persistence on training during the three years in which he had been regarded as a useless person had caused Xiao Yan to stabilize his training foundation until it was extremely firm. Only with this starting point, which was as stable as a

rock, could Xiao Yan have the opportunity to continue advancing, building a towering strength which could cause others to be shocked. Therefore, he would not let this temporarily interest destroy his rock-solid foundation of which he was most proud!

One naturally need not debate which was more important between the two. Therefore, Xiao Yan was extremely firm in giving up the breakthrough once again.

Xiao Yan's face was like a piece of warm jade that emitted a faint glow as he sat cross-legged on the green lotus. It was a long while later before the glow slowly disappeared. His eyelashes trembled slightly, and he suddenly opened his eyes. A faint green-colored glow flashed through them and quickly disappeared.

Following the disappearance of the glow, the powerful force that had shrouded the surface of Xiao Yan's body also gradually withdrawn until it had completely disappeared.

"Ke ke, not bad. After recuperating and training, my strength actually rose by two stars. Unfortunately, this kind of opportunity is not something that you are given whenever you want it." Yao Lao laughed softly as he saw Xiao Yan leave his training state.

A turbid air moved along Xiao Yan's throat before being emitted. He twitched his neck and heard the clear sound of his bones cracking. After which, he sensed the surging Dou Qi flowing within his body, which was like that of a flowing river. A joy involuntarily surfaced on his face. His hands gently pressed the green lotus and his body fell in a supple manner. His fists then abruptly struck out. The blowing sound of the wind from his fist was extremely sharp.

"It is enough. With my current ability, I can perfectly control the strength of my two star increase. If it were to increase by more, I may appear to have risen in strength for a short period of time but if one were to look from a long term perspective, it would not be good for me." Xiao Yan withdrew his fist and said with a smile.

Yao Lao smiled and nodded his head. He beckoned the green lotus with

his hand and returned it to the storage ring. His hand then shook and the broken jade piece from earlier once again appeared in his hand while he rubbed it gently.

After raising his strength, the internal injuries within Xiao Yan's body has also completely healed. The rosiness had returned to Xiao Yan's face once again. He raised his head and watched Yao Lao's action before glancing at the piece of broken jade. He was slightly stunned. His heart immediately moved a little as he took two steps forward and asked probingly, "Does teacher recognize what this is?"

"Ah, I have seen this kind of strange storing device before." Yao Lao nodded his head and said.

"Storing device? One can actually store things within this thing? Don't tell me it is storing something like a Dou Technique or Qi Method?" Xiao Yan was startled momentarily before speaking as he came to a sudden realization.

"Ke ke, ah. If this is what I think it is, this kind of jade storage device should be the masterpiece of the 'Burning Flame Valley' on the Dou Qi Continent. This is because they are the only ones with a skill that allows them to use jade as a storage device. Moreover, if one were to touch this jade piece for a long time, there is actually a faint warm feeling to it. This is the mark of things that were made by the 'Burning Flame Valley'." Yao Lao smiled as he spoke.

"'Burning Flame Valley'? What is that?" Xiao Yan could not help but feel somewhat at a loss upon hearing this foreign name. As a novice who had never left the Jia Ma Empire in his life, it was natural that he had never heard of this name.

"The 'Burning Flame Valley' is a faction on the Dou Qi continent. If we were to discuss about its strength, it is likely not any weaker than the Misty Cloud Sect. They have become renowned in the Dou Qi Continent for practicing Qi Method of the fire affinity. They only specialize in violent attacking methods. Therefore, they can be considered unique in the Dou Qi continent." Yao Lao said faintly.

“Not weaker than the Misty Cloud Sect?” The corner of Xiao Yan’s mouth twitched slightly. A long while later, he could not resist laughing bitterly. It was really unexpected that this Misty Cloud Sect, which dominated the Jia Ma Empire was only mediocre on the Dou Qi continent.

“Ke ke, don’t overestimate the Misty Cloud Sect. What that person called Ling Ying said was true. The Misty Cloud Sect is merely only a second tier faction in the Dou Qi continent. Although they may now have a Dou Zong, they can only be considered to be among the bottom of the first tier factions.” Yao Lao smacked his lips, contorting them with disdain.

“Of course, even if that is the case, they can naturally still be considered an enormous being in front of you, a small Da Dou Shi.” Yao Lao laughed out as he watched a bitter smile appear on Xiao Yan’s face, “Little fellow. The Dou Qi continent is very big. There are as many strong people as there are clouds. The world that you have seen in the past is merely a small corner of this continent. When you step onto the continent, I believe that you will like that fabulous and exciting world. However, you should also be clear of this. Regardless of where you are, your own strength is the most important thing if you want to obtain respect!”

“The strong eat the weak. This is a rule used by all in this world.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly as he let out a soft laugh.

“It is naturally good that you can understand this.” Yao Lao smiled. He held the broken jade piece in his hand and said, “Back to our original topic. Do you want to know what is inside this?”

“Of course.” Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded his head. Since this thing had originated from the Burning Flame Valley, which could be compared to the Misty Cloud Sect, the items within should also likely be something extraordinary.

“Use a fire to burn it.” Yao Lao threw the jade piece and the storage ring toward Xiao Yan as he continued with a smile, “The things from the Burning Flame Valley are this strange. One must use a flame to burn it in order to obtain the things inside. According to logic, the more fire-resistant the jade that originates from Burning Flame Valley is, the more

precious the item within it is.”

Xiao Yan carefully received the jade piece. He flipped it up and down as he looked at it. It was really difficult to believe that this seemingly weak looking jade piece was actually able to withstand being burnt by a fire. However, he never doubted the words that Yao Lao said. He immediately took out a purple-colored Danwan and threw it into his mouth. He chewed slightly, widen his mouth and spat out a purple-colored flame which was immediately suspended in front of him.

Xiao Yan gently flicked his finger. The jade piece immediately turned into a ray of light that shot into the purple-colored fireball.

When he saw the jade piece enter the flame, Xiao Yan hurriedly focused his sight onto the fireball, observing all the changes of the jade piece.

The weak looking broken jade piece charged directly into the flame. Faint flame seedlings of the purple-colored flame erupted on the surface of the jade piece. What caused Xiao Yan and Yao Lao to feel a little strange was that the jade piece did not have the slightest movement as it was being burned by the purple flame!

“This...” Xiao Yan blinked his eyes. He was slightly stunned as he watched Yao Lao. No matter how one put it, the Purple Flame was a flame with quite a high temperature. It was many times stronger than an ordinary Dou Qi flame. Yet there was actually not the slightest change in this jade piece. If it was as Yao Lao had mentioned earlier, where the greater the fire-resistance, the more valuable the thing inside was, then...

“Ah, I originally thought that it was merely an ordinary object. It really is unexpected that this seems to be a big fish.” A strange look flashed over Yao Lao’s face as he watched the jade piece which was still safe and sound within the flame. He could not resist smiling as he lifted his chin slightly toward Xiao Yan and said, “Little fellow, looks like your luck is really quite good. Now, use the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ and give it a try.”

Xiao Yan was startled upon hearing this. He lifted his head and eyed Yao Lao, only to find a joy from within the other person’s eyes. Immediately, his heart understood. If this little jade piece was able to bring praise from

Yao Lao, it was likely that he had truly found something good this time around.

Xiao Yan's heart quietly beat faster. He swallowed his saliva and used his strength to rub both his hands. A green-colored flame immediately rose from between his fingers.

Xiao Yan waved his hand and the purple-colored fireball in front of him disappeared into nothingness. He then beckoned with his hand and the jade piece fell once again. It was instantly wrapped up by the green-colored flame which had gushed out from Xiao Yan's finger.

The black-colored broken jade piece descended into silence upon falling into the green-colored flame. Xiao Yan was, however, not anxious as he slowly raised the flame's temperature.

When the cave had become unknowingly hot, the jade piece, which had been quiet, finally began to change. The originally smooth surface suddenly began to fluctuate like that of a water wave; its appearance was as though it was about to melt.

"It's fine. Continue to raise its temperature." Yao Lao did not panic as he watched the jade piece which was about to melt. Instead, he smiled and spoke faintly.

Xiao Yan also calmed his heart after watching Yao Lao's calm manner. He nodded his head and inhaled a deep breath of air. The Dou Qi in his body flowed swiftly and the temperature of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame' was once again abruptly raised!

Following the increase in the flame's temperature, the dark, black, broken jade piece finally melted completely. The jade piece no longer had that black color after it had melted. Instead, it turned into a flat, green-colored, crystal clear liquid. The liquid slowly flowed within the green flame, much like a living creature, appearing extremely strange.

At one point, the flowing liquid suddenly stopped. The surface of the liquid was agitated, as though there was something that was about to break through it and surface.

“The good thing is about to appear.” Yao Lao said with a smile as he watched the movement of the liquid.

Xiao Yan’s heart tightened upon hearing this. His eyes stared at the flame without even blinking once.

The green-colored liquid continued to rage for more than ten seconds. In an instant, an eye-piercing green light suddenly shot out from within it, and instantly concealed all the other lights within the cave.

The green light may have been eye-piercing, but it did not cause Xiao Yan, or Yao Lao to close their eyes. This was because a countless number of characters and information suddenly erupted from within the liquid the instant after the green light shone. They immediately and automatically arranged themselves in mid air within the mountain cave, forming words with a special font.

Xiao Yan’s gaze swept across the light curtain in midair and finally stopped on the few large character located right at the top. His mouth moved slightly and a soft voice seeped out from between his teeth.

“Skyfire Three Mysterious Change?”

At the side, Yao Lao’s entire body shook upon hearing this name. The glow in his eyes suddenly brightened!

Chapter 371: The Ingenuity of the Secret Technique

The large, light screen was suspended in midair within the cave. Countless words were layered on it in an orderly manner. Beside the words, there was an extremely complicated diagram of the human figure made of light. Within the diagram of light, numerous complicated lines formed by light intertwined with one another, forming a mysterious and strange route.

Xiao Yan's eyes carried some curiosity as they carefully inspected the screen of light. He immediately turned his head and saw Yao Lao's eyes, which shone brightly. His heart involuntarily leaped as he softly asked, "Teacher, do you know what this is?"

"Yes." The glow in Yao Lao's eyes slowly withdrew as he smiled and nodded. He smacked his lips and smiled as he said with a surprised sigh, "This time around, you have indeed picked up a treasure. This 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' is a very mysterious, high-class Secret Technique."

"Secret Technique?" Xiao Yan's eyebrows immediately rose upon hearing these words.

"Ke ke, other than Qi Methods and Dou Techniques there are still some special Secret Techniques which exist on the Dou Qi continent. Their effects are usually something that will cause others to be envious. Some of them can even greatly raise one's strength. That night back at Wu Tan City, your little female friend used an advanced Secret Technique to enable herself to raise her strength to the Da Dou Shi class for a short period of time." Yao Lao smiled as he explained.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. The scene of that night when Xun Er stealthily entered the Jia Li clan to murder Liu Xi surfaced in his mind. She, whose strength had been at the Dou Zhe level, had suddenly raised her strength to a level where it was sufficient to contend with a Da Dou Shi. That kind of Secret Technique was really so strong that it was a little terrifying.

“According to what I know, this ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’ is one of the hidden treasures belonging to the ‘Burning Flame Valley’. Although it is a useless kind of Secret Technique for most people, it is undoubtedly a treasure which money cannot buy for a person who possesses a certain extraordinary and unique flame.”

“Oh?” Xiao Yan’s heart was moved as he heard this. Possessing a certain extraordinary type of flame? Was there any flame that was more extraordinary than a ‘Heavenly Flame’ in this world?

“If one wants to practice this kind of Secret Technique, the first requirement is that the practitioner must have the fire affinity. The second is that he must possess an extraordinary flame. The extraordinary flame here also includes those flames like your Purple Flame. Of course, the ‘Heavenly Flame’ is naturally the best choice. Ke ke. But since when was a ‘Heavenly Flame’ so easy to find in this world? Therefore, I seem to have heard that only the Valley Leader of the ‘Burning Flame Valley’ possessed a kind of ‘Heavenly Flame’.” Yao Lao smiled as he spoke.

“If I were to fulfill these conditions and practice the ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’, can I also raise my strength for a short period of time?” Xiao Yan’s eyeballs rotated as he hurriedly asked.

“Naturally.” Yao Lao fondled his beard and smiled. He eyed Xiao Yan’s face which was filled with excitement as he said, “This so called ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’ actually relies on a special and bizarre method to draw out the special flame from within the body, and unleashes an extremely great energy, which is then used to push the opponent back and deter them.”

“Is it as strong as the Secret Technique that Xun Er displayed back then?” Xiao Yan suddenly interrupted and asked.

Yao Lao frowned slightly upon hearing this. He mused for a moment before shaking his head immediately and said, “Back then, I observed the complexion of that little girl and seeing that it was still rosy the next day after using the Secret Technique the night before, really surprised me. From the looks of it, I’m afraid that there is still a gap between the Secret

Technique she displayed and this one. After all, all Secret Techniques use a kind of compression or overdraw method to obtain strength. This lets a person's strength soar for a short period of time, but there would usually be a substantial backlash that appears after each use. Using this 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' as an example. It is said that each time it is used, the wild energy of the flame will cause people's body to be badly injured. However, from the external appearance of your little female friend the next day, she did not suffer from an overly large loss. From this, the differences of the two kinds of Secret Techniques can be determined."

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly and sighed while shaking his head. In his heart, he felt increasingly strong curiosity of Xun Er's mysterious background. Given her age, she actually possessed a kind of Secret Technique that even Yao Lao could not stop praising. Just how strong was the faction that supported her?

"Ke ke, you should not be so dejected. This 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' is actually not weak either. According to what I know, if one possess three kinds of flame, this Secret Technique can let a person's strength to increase three different times. The scale at which your strength would increase is related to the strength of the flame that you control. Back then, the Valley Leader of the 'Burning Flame Valley' had one kind of 'Heavenly Flame' and two 'Beast Flames', which were obtained from the bodies of two Magical Beasts. His original strength was around the five star Dou Zong level, but if he used the three transformations of the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change', he could easily contend with a Dou Zhun!" Yao Lao smiled and comforted Xiao Yan after seeing his expression.

"Oh? It actually allows the user to fight across classes?" Xiao Yan was a little moved upon hearing this. After seeing Hai Bodong pushed back by a single attack of the Yun Shan's clones, he clearly knew just how difficult it was to cross the gap between each class once one reached the Dou Huang level. Yet this 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' actually lets the user fight across the gaps between classes. From what you just said, it can indeed be considered 'a good thing' as Yao Lao had just said.

“Ke ke, that is the limit that one could raise if they only possess one ‘Heavenly Flame’. But it is different for you. The you who possesses the ‘Flame Mantra’ does not need to worry about the flames in your body clashing with one another. Therefore, as long as you are given enough time and luck to gather three kinds of ‘Heavenly Flames’, the extent that your strength will rise when you activate the ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’ to the third transformation would likely be something that even the ancestor who had created this Secret Technique did not ever imagine. After all, he couldn’t have also practiced the ‘Flame Mantra’.” Yao Lao laughed softly.

The blood in Xiao Yan’s heart could not help but boil a little when he heard Yao Lao’s words. A flush surfaced on his face. His gaze was a little more fiery when he once again looked at the curtain of light.

“Insert your hand into that light green-colored liquid. In this way, you can completely obtain the training method for the ‘Skyfire Three Mysterious Change’. You will not gain anything by looking at this light screen.” Yao Lao reminded.

Xiao Yan hurriedly nodded his head. He placed his finger into the liquid which was somewhat warm. The curtain of light that was suspended in midair trembled slightly. Immediately, it appeared to come to life as it swiftly began to move. A moment later, the screen of light turned into a string of light that poured directly into Xiao Yan’s head.

The enormous flood of information violently charged into his mind. Xiao Yan’s face swiftly twitched a couple of times. He forcefully endured the wave of pain that swept over him as he hurriedly sat down, closed his eyes, and digested the information which contained the practice method of the Secret Technique.

The mountain cave once again descended into complete silence. Yao Lao slowly stroked his beard as he eyed Xiao Yan who was seated with his eyes close. Suddenly, he let out a soft gloating laughter, “It is really unexpected that this heavily guarded Secret Technique of the ‘Burning Flame Valley’ would actually find it’s way into the Jia Ma Empire. Moreover, it was even obtained by this little fellow. Hee hee. That antiquated old fellow Yan Huo

wasn't even willing to let the old me borrow and read it back then. Yet it still landed in my disciple's hand. It was even obtained without any effort. If he were to know about this, I'm afraid that he would be extremely furious. Ha ha."

The laugh reverberated throughout the cave. It was a long while later before it slowly faded away. Xiao Yan, who had his eyes tightly closed also gradually opened them. He gently exhaled a breath of air while his eyes flashed.

"The training method for the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' is really strange. I don't know which odd genius could actually create this." Xiao Yan shook his head and sighed. While he was digesting the information that had flown through his head earlier, he had roughly took a look at the training method for the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change'. It could indeed be called incomparably strange.

"Secret Techniques are extremely rare in this world. The extent of their rarity can even be comparable to a high Di class Qi Method." Yao Lao smiled and nodded. He asked, "How is it? Are you satisfied?"

TL: Note that Qi Method > Dou Technique in terms of worth

"Extremely satisfied."

Xiao Yan's mouth parted with a smile. Quickly following it, however, he frowned and said, "But I have gave it a brief glance just now. This 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' does indeed have three transformations. Unfortunately, the information contained within the jade piece merely records the first transformation. There is not even the slightest prospect of the remaining two kinds of transformation."

"Oh? There is only one change?" Yao Lao's eyebrows knit together when he heard this information. A long while later, he could only shake his head helplessly and said, "This is perhaps some small trick of the 'Burning Flame Valley'. In this way, even if someone were to luckily obtain the Secret Technique, it would be difficult for them to practice all of it."

"But if there isn't, then there isn't. The current me coincidentally only has one 'Heavenly Flame' within my body. It is perfect to train one kind of

transformation for now.” Xiao Yan waved his hand and said in an open-minded manner.

“Ah, then you should temporarily practice it first. Once you have found other ‘Heavenly Flames’ in the future, then we’ll think of ways to obtain the remaining portion of the technique from the ‘Burning Flame Valley’.” Yao Lao nodded his head and spoke softly.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded.

“You have completely recovered from your injuries. What are you planning to do next?” Yao Lao suddenly asked.

Xiao Yan was startled upon hearing this. He mused for a moment, clenched his fists tightly, and said, “I want to search for my father! Seeing that Yun Leng actually insisted that he had never touched my father just before his death, I’m afraid that what he said should be the truth.”

Xiao Yan’s brows knit together as he spoke this point. He smiled bitterly and said, “If what he said were true, how could my father, with the strength of a Da Dou Shi, disappear in front of the eyes of a Dou Wang?”

Yao Lao flicked his finger gently. A long while later, he narrowed his eyes slightly and spoke softly, “Your father’s strength is really that of a Da Dou Shi. Therefore, it is likely that he did not rely on his own strength to disappear into nowhere. It might be that there was someone else who did something to bring him away.”

“Someone else?” Xiao Yan was momentarily stunned. His expression changed slightly as he said: “If it really was someone else who did it, I’m afraid that the other party’s strength would at least be at the Dou Huang level in order to bring my father away in front of Yun Leng without the latter even realizing it. But other than me, it seems that my Xiao clan has never befriended such a strong person.”

“With the background of your Xiao clan, it is indeed really difficult for them to befriend such a strong person. But the faction behind your little female friend does have this ability.” Yao Lao said blandly.

“Teacher, what do you mean? Someone Xun Er sent?” Xiao Yan’s face

was at a loss as he asked after hearing this.

“That little girl may be very smart, but she is far too young. It is unlikely that she possesses such great foresight. What I meant is that this may be related to the faction that stands behind her.” Yao Lao shook his head and said, “Your Xiao clan does have some connection with them, but it cannot be considered to be a good one. The relationship is overly complicated with too much implication. As an outsider, I am also not very certain about the details. The next time you meet that little female friend of yours, you can ask her and you may learn some secrets.

Xiao Yan found it difficult to ask more questions when he saw Yao Lao’s expression. He nodded slightly and said in a soft voice, “Alright. In any case, the clan has already been moved. I can also leave with my peace of mind. This time, let’s hurry directly to Jia Nan Academy.”

“Yes.”

Xiao Yan turned his body around and slowly walked towards the entrance of the cave. He eyed the dark, black night sky and a cold glint flashed across his narrowed pupils. He said faintly, “However, a hard fight is unavoidable if we want to successfully leave the Jia Ma Empire. Given Yun Shan’s character, he will definitely not allow me leave the Jia Ma Empire easily.”

Yao Lao nodded his head.

“Hei, since they want to get me to stay behind, then they should be prepared to receive a beating. I, Xiao Yan, am not someone who is softhearted!” A green-colored flame abruptly leapt from his long finger. He slowly exhaled a breath of air. A thick, low voice slowly resounded within the interior of the cave.

Chapter 372: Bloody Revenge!

Following the flow of time, night slowly faded away. When the first morning sunlight from the distant sky poured over the land, signs of life once again burst forth in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, which had been quiet for the entire night. A countless number of huge birds were singing in unison, their song remained in the forest and did not fade away for a long time.

A huge rock suddenly rolled aside and fell by the precipitous ravine. The loud sound that it emitted as it fell frightened the bird beasts lingering nearby until they hurriedly spread their wings and fled.

After the mountain rock fell, a dark, black cave entrance was revealed. A black-robed figure immediately walked out. He narrowed his slanted eyes as he swept them across the partially concealed blue sky, hidden behind the thick mist. He gently exhaled and said softly, "Teacher, are there any traces of the Misty Cloud Sect disciples nearby?"

"Yes."

A voice was swiftly emitted from within Xiao Yan's heart, "A few hundred meters on the other side of this ravine, there are quite a number of Qis of varying strength. There are also some scattered ones in other directions. Yun Shan has left an energy trace within your body. Although this trace is being suppressed by me, they are still able to vaguely sense a little of it. Therefore, they can use this to vaguely guess your position. However, it is quite fortunate that the region they can narrow their search to is still very large. They need to search cautiously in order to be certain. Otherwise, they would have found this location last night."

"Hei, they really are persistent. Looks like the Misty Cloud Sect is really keen on killing me." Xiao Yan coldly laughed.

"Now, you cannot be held back by them. Otherwise, if the Elders of the Misty Cloud Sect were to hurry over, you would be in trouble. Moreover, I need at least half a month before my Spiritual Strength is fully recovered. Therefore, you have to rely on yourself if you want to escape from the

Misty Cloud Sect's blockade that surrounds this area during this half a month period of time." Yao Lao reminded seriously.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded. The last time Yao Lao had fallen into a slumber had caused him to understand what it meant to rely entirely on himself. Although Yao Lao was currently unable to take direct action to help him, the vast experience which he had accumulated over the years was still able to provide Xiao Yan a vast amount of help. Therefore, Xiao Yan was not the slightest bit worried despite the situation being quite dangerous.

"Since I am currently surrounded in three directions, I can only continue to move deeper into the Magical Beast Mountain Range and find an opportunity to make a detour. As long as I can throw off the people who are chasing me and hide my identity, I think that it will not be difficult to leave the Jia Ma Empire." Xiao Yan said softly.

"Yes, everything is up to you. I will help by keeping track to the people chasing you." Yao Lao's voice slowly became softer before completely disappearing.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His shoulders trembled slightly and the huge Purple Cloud Wings unfurled from his back. He flapped the wings and his body was like a large bird as he shot directly toward the clouds.

When his body was slightly above the top of the ravine, Xiao Yan turned his body. He immediately landed steadily on the opposite side of the ravine. He slowly returned the Purple Cloud Wings to tattoos and turned around to look at the dense forest which began to rustle with faint disturbances after sensing the movement. He laughed coldly as his body turned into a black line which charged directly into the dense forest. In the blink of an eye, he disappeared under the cover of the heavy tree leaves.

Not long after Xiao Yan disappeared, the branches of the trees on the opposite side of the ravine suddenly swayed a little. A group of human figures released a 'swash' sound as they flashed and appeared. They held shining longswords in their hands that reflected a thick cold glow under the sunlight.

“No one? A moment ago, second senior brother sensed some movement in the air around here?”

“Perhaps it was created by some Magical Beast. However, the ravine here as a little too wide. Looks like only those brothers in the sect who are well versed in wind affinity Qi Techniques can go over first.”

“Yes.”

“Remember the Elders’ order. Do not fight head on with Xiao Yan should you meet him. All we need to do is to use all our effort to try and stall for time!”

“Yes!”

The orderly response sounded by the edge of the ravine. A few shadows suddenly shot out, using a gentle wind to allow their bodies to drift in midair. They were like catkin floating in the wind, gently falling toward the other side of the ravine. The few people exchanged glances when they landed before standing up and rushing into the dense woods with great cooperation.

In the dense mountain forest, a human figure was swiftly flashing across tree branches. Each time his toes gently pressed against a branch, his body would use that force to abruptly shoot a great distance away. Although there were some Magical Beasts, who carried ferocious auras, that appeared along the path where the human figure flashed past, these Magical Beasts did not seem to have the slightest intention of stopping him. Instead, they would lie low on the ground just before the human figure arrived. Their bodies would tremble as they hid their Qis. That manner was as though they had met something terrifying.

“The people chasing are getting further and further away. They seem to have also sensed your swift movement. Now, there is a large group of Misty Cloud Sect disciples hurrying over from all directions. However, it is fortunate that there are Magical Beasts blocking them along the way. With their speed of travel, you should be able to completely escape them by evening.” Yao Lao’s voice suddenly sounded from Xiao Yan’s heart, who was swiftly moving.

Xiao Yan quietly sighed in relief upon hearing this. He nodded slightly and lifted his head to stare at the light not far in front of him. His toes pressed gently once again and his body shot out like an arrow which had left a bow.

As his body grew increasingly closer to the light at the edge of the forest, Xiao Yan frowned slightly. An instinctive feeling within him caused an uneasiness to surface within his heart. However, he could not find anything regarding the source of this uneasiness. Moreover, Yao Lao did not come out to speak. Therefore, he simply forcefully suppressed that uneasy feeling within his heart and stared intently at the bright exit. He increased the strength of his legs and finally turned into a black shadow which shot directly out.

“Be careful!” The moment that Xiao Yan’s body charged out of the forest, Yao Lao’s stern voice suddenly sounded!

“Xiu!”

The sudden, bright, eye-piercing sunlight caused Xiao Yan to habitually close his eyes. Closely following Yao Lao’s cry, as well as the tearing sound that was emitted from the sky, a chill was felt in his heart. By instinct, Xiao Yan’s body forcefully and strangely twisted in midair before landing on the ground. His body rolled a couple of times on the grass, much like a hedgehog rolling down the mountain, before entering a small bush close to him which was only a few meters wide. He suddenly lifted his head and studied the blue sky. His eyes shrunk abruptly.

At this moment, there were five enormous eagle type Magical Beasts in the vast sky, slowly circling above. What caused Xiao Yan’s expression to change slightly was the few human figures who were on the backs of the five flying Magical Beast. Although he was a great distance from them, Xiao Yan could still identify their identities from their robes: the Misty Cloud Sect!

“Dammit. It is really unexpected that the Misty Cloud Sect actually had flying beasts at such a large scale!” Xiao Yan clenched his teeth and softly cursed. If it wasn’t because of the great increase in his strength which also

provided him with a lot more agility, he would really have received some injuries from the sneak attack earlier.

“I’m sorry. This exceeded my expectations. Originally, I thought that only those few Dou Wangs from the Misty Cloud Sect could fly. Therefore, my attention toward the sky was a little less focused. In the end, I did not expect that they actually had such a tactic. The strongest Misty Cloud Sect disciple on those few flying Magical Beast is around that of a two star Da Dou Shi. This weak aura coupled with their flying height actually managed to escape my perception. I was careless.” Yao Lao’s bitter laughter sounded from Xiao Yan’s heart.

“Teacher, you need not blame yourself. I had already expected that my plan to escape this time would definitely not go smoothly.” Xiao Yan smiled. He lifted his head and eyed the sky. A thick, darkness flashed across his face as he said, “However, it is insufficient if they wanted to stop me with just these few people.”

“Be careful. Try your best not to be held back by them. Otherwise, it will be very troublesome once their reinforcements arrive.” Yao Lao once again reminded when he heard the killing intent in Xiao Yan’s voice.

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded his head. His hand slowly grasped his sleeves and a thick cold smile surfaced on his face.

The five flying Magical Beasts in the sky lingered above this area, which was isolated by the forest. There were two Misty Cloud Sect disciples standing on the back of each Magical Beast. At this moment, ten pairs of anxious eyes were directly watching the bushes which Xiao Yan was hiding in.

“Mo Lei sir, the person below is undoubtedly Xiao Yan. What should we do now?” A Misty Cloud Sect disciple on the back of a flying Magical Beast asked a middle-aged, large man respectfully.

“Release the signal flares first.” The middle-aged, large man’s gaze stared sharply and intently at the small bush as he ordered coldly, “Before the Elders arrive, we must hinder Xiao Yan no matter what. The old Sect Leader said that Xiao Yan is severely injured. Even if he can strain himself

and flee, it is likely that his strength would be greatly decreased. As long as we delay him until the Elders arrive, it will be difficult for him to escape death!”

“The old Sect Leader has also said that an exception will be made to promote whoever captures Xiao Yan, whether he is dead or alive, to the position of a Deacon. Moreover, that person will even be freely allowed to choose a High Xuan Qi Method and Dou Technique!” When these words of the middle-aged man left his mouth, the breathing of the other nine slightly younger Misty Cloud Sect disciples immediately became hurried. An additional greediness and ferociousness appeared in the eyes, which they used to stare at the small cluster of bushes.

“Bang!”

An intelligent Misty Cloud Sect disciple swiftly took out a signal flare from his chest pocket not long after the large man’s words fell. He then pulled it with a great force. As a clear sound appeared, a huge, fog longsword with cloud markings slowly formed in the distant sky.

The moment the Misty Cloud Sect disciple released the signal flare, the gazes of the others in his group continued to stare intently at the small bushes. The sharp longswords which they held in their hands reflected a deep glint. The faint Dou Qi shrunk and extended indefinitely on the edge of the swords.

After the signal flare and the sound gradually disappeared, the area once again descended into complete silence. There was not the slightest movement within those small bushes.

The eyes of the middle-aged man stared unblinkingly at the small bushes. The strange silence of the surroundings caused the cold and stern face of the middle-aged man to change slightly. A long while later, some cold sweat involuntarily surfaced on his forehead. Logically speaking, Xiao Yan should know that the longer time dragged on, the more of a disadvantage he would be in. But why is it now...

Just as the large middle-aged man was imagining things, a change occurred within the small bushes below. The leaves suddenly shot out

explosively, permeating the sky. A black shadow also borrowed the cover of the leaves and burst out.

“Humph. Where can you go?” The moment the bushes moved, the middle-aged man immediately sensed something. His dark and cold gaze simply ignored the tree leaves that covered his sight and directly locked onto that black shadow. The longsword in his hand swung swiftly, even forming a couple of afterimages in front of him.

As the longsword moved, over ten sharp sword blades were shot out from the tip of the sword. They were immediately and violently aimed toward the black shadow.

The points at which the sword blades landed were extremely ingenious. They coincidentally sealed the path which the black shadow was using to charge forward. If he were to forcibly charge in, it was likely that he would be wounded on the spot.

The black shadow was clearly unwilling to be injured because of this. Therefore, his feet were abruptly inserted into the grass covered ground, borrowing the elastic force to swiftly pull himself back. He immediately rolled in the air and was once again forced back into the small bushes.

“Hee hee, this little fellow is indeed quite badly injured.” The corner of the middle-aged large man involuntarily revealed a gloating expression. Before his gloating smile was completely revealed, however, a seven-colored glow flashed from the corner of his mouth, causing his smile to swiftly stiffen.

“Be careful!” The middle-aged man squat down slightly and roared sternly.

“Ah.” His voice had just rang out when a blood-curling scream was heard. The middle-aged man raised his head and his expression changed drastically as he realized that a flying Magical Beast not far from him had been drenched in a seven-colored liquid at this moment. The bodies of the two people on it’s back had merely blocked it with their Dou Qi for a short moment before their bodies were corroded by the seven-colored liquid into two piles of white bones.

The miserable death of their companions caused the faces of the remaining Misty Cloud Sect disciples around to grow pale. In their panic, they hurriedly directed their flying Magical Beasts to descend toward the ground.

“Stupid fellows. Don’t go near the ground! Xiao Yan is below!” The middle-aged man hurriedly cried out furiously when he saw the action of these Misty Cloud Sect disciples.

“Hee hee, it’s too late.” A thick, dark, cold laugh suddenly rippled through the air. A human figure shot out abruptly from within the small bushes. The Purple Cloud Wings on his back flapped, and he instantly appeared by the side of the three flying Magical Beasts. The Heavy Xuan Ruler in his hand was as quick as lightning as it cut out three traces of broken wind. Following three muffled sounds, fresh blood rained down and permeated the sky. The heads of the three Magical Beasts fell from the sky.

The flying Magical Beasts were killed on the spot. The six Misty Cloud Sect disciples on their backs let out terrified screeches as their faces became pale. Their quick falling speed made the wild wind, blowing past, to force their screeches back into their throats.

Once he killed the three flying Magical Beasts, Xiao Yan ignored the falling Misty Cloud Sect disciples. With their mere Dou Shi strengths, falling from such a height meant certain death!

Xiao Yan’s body was suspended in midair. He glanced at the only flying Magical Beast in the sky. Without saying any unnecessary words, he flapped the wings on his back and swiftly pounced over.

“Hurry up and leave!”

The middle-aged man’s face was completely pale as he eyed Xiao Yan who was shooting over. An eagle-like cry was hurriedly released from the middle-aged large man’s mouth. Immediately, the remaining flying Magical Beast swiftly rose into the air, attempting to escape.

“Si”

The Magical Beast had just increased its altitude when a seven-colored light once again surfaced. It was like a sharp arrow that directly shot through the chest of Misty Cloud Sect disciple beside the large middle-aged man who was already frightened by the deaths of his companions until his face was pale.

Hot, fresh blood spilled from behind the large middle-aged man, and finally splashed onto his neck. The blood was originally warm, yet it caused the middle-aged large man to feel a chill, and regret swelled forth from his heart. He regretted being so greedy, and the decision he made to involve these people so deeply within the chase.

“Since you are here, why do you want to leave?” A black shadow abruptly rose in the empty space in front of him. Finally, in a demonic manner, he raised the heavy ruler with his hand and pressed his toes gently on the head of the Magical Beast. His smiling face was like an evil demon in the eyes of the large middle-aged man.

“If you want me to die, you can also forget about getting away so easily!” Having no room to retreat, the large middle-aged man clenched his teeth ferociously. He tightened his grip on his longsword and let out a fierce laughter. The Dou Qi on his entire body surged as he shot explosively toward Xiao Yan while carrying a powerful force.

Xiao Yan watched the large middle-aged man who had charged over with the intent to kill. He gently lifted the heavy ruler in his hand and stepped on the head of the Magical Beast with his toes. His body shot forward like an arrow. As the sound of two swords collided rang out, the two figures also intertwined and passed one another.

Xiao Yan’s hand held the Heavy Xuan Ruler. He flipped his hand and inserted it onto his back before whistling with his mouth into the air. A seven-colored light rushed into his sleeves. He then flapped the pair of wings on his back, turned his head, and eyed the large number of small black spots which had suddenly appeared in the distant horizon. A cold smile appeared on his face as his body swiftly landed on the ground. He immediately disappeared into the extremely dense forest. From the moment he stored his ruler until he left, he did not even take a single

glance at the large middle-aged man who was still maintaining his stance of lifting his sword.

Not long after Xiao Yan had disappeared, the large group of small black spots coming from the distant horizon, gradually and finally magnified. They immediately carried a wild wind that spread throughout the sky as they arrived at the spot which had just undergone a big fight.

The black spots were enlarged and actually consisted of more than thirty Magical Beasts of similar shape. There were three elders with Dou Qi wings on their backs at the leading position of the flying unit.

“Mo Lei, where is Xiao Yan? What about the other members of your small unit?” The three elders were shockingly the three Misty Cloud Elders who had taken action to stop Hai Bodong when Xiao Yan had first went up against the Misty Cloud Sect. At this moment, one Elder was eyeing the large middle-aged man who was standing on the back of a Magical Beast with his head lowered as he cried out loud.

However, Mo Lei did not have any reaction to his name being called.

“Something is wrong!” As they eyed Mo Lei, who had his head lowered, the expression of the older man suddenly changed as he cried out softly.

As his cry fell, the body of Mo Lei, who was standing on the back of the Magical Beast, suddenly trembled. Immediately, his body exploded with a ‘bang’, much like that of a bomb, in front of the shocked gazes of the nearly one hundred Misty Cloud Sect disciples. The fresh blood which was spread in all directions immediately poured down from the sky.

“Hiss.” The instant after Mo Lei’s body exploded, the Magical Beast under his feet suddenly emitted a painful groan. Its body trembled intensely. A moment later, a ‘bang’ was unleashed and another explosion occurred.

Fresh blood accompanied by fragments of meat came pouring down from the sky, nearly rendering the entire dark, green grassland below into a hell-like scene.

As they endured the dreadful event that occurred in front of them, the

nearly one hundred Misty Cloud Sect disciples had pale faces as they descended into a strange silence. Some of the smarter ones seemed to realize something from this tragedy.

Revenge!

This was the revenge that Xiao Yan had given to the Misty Cloud Sect for continuing to chase after him with the intention to kill!

The revenge of a hungry wolf, which was forced into a desperate situation, would cause the coldness to diffuse throughout a person's heart.

The oldest Elder had a green face as he eyed the fresh blood and remnant bones on the ground. He clenched his fist and abruptly lowered his head towards the many large mountains as he roared out with great enmity: "Xiao Yan, even if I have to continue chasing you for thousands of kilometers, this old man will definitely tear you into tens of thousands of pieces, pull out your muscles, and break your bones!"

The roar was carried by Dou Qi as it mightily spread throughout the entire mountain, not disappearing until a long while later.

In the distant dense woods, the swiftly flashing black shadow suddenly paused. He indifferently glanced at the sky behind him and slowly emitted a soft, cold laughter. His feet immediately pressed against the tree branch, and swiftly fled into the dense woods before disappearing.

Chapter 373: Surrounded and Attacked in The Magical Beast Mountain Range

Within the vast, dense forest, the bright green trees covered nearly half of the sky. Occasionally, however, one could see flying Magical Beasts repeatedly whizzing past in the sky with a bone-chilling killing intent through the gaps of the tree leaves.

In the sky above the enormous sea of trees, tens of flying Magical Beasts were spread out in a circular formation, surrounding the large forest. At this moment, these flying Magical Beasts were moving nearer from afar as they slowly searched toward the center of the forest.

Within a certain dense thicket, a pair of eyes were quietly looking through the gaps between the leaves, eyeing the numerous huge bodies in the sky. Each one carried a dark shadow as they flew past. He could not help but knit his eyebrows tightly together. Although he had already shaken off the unit that had been chasing him earlier, his legs could not outrun a pair of wings. Therefore, the flying units that came from all directions overtook him after an hour. However, it was fortunate that the other party did not know his exact location and were unable to find him within a short period of time.

“Looks like those three old men who would not die are extremely furious. They actually began to search inch by inch without consideration of the labor required.” Xiao Yan had shrunk within a dark shadow as he softly muttered.

“The strengths of those three Misty Cloud Sect Elders are not bad. Therefore, they are able to sense the slight movements emitted from the energy trace within your body more clearly than an ordinary person. Although they are still unable to accurately tell your exact location, they are able to sense your approximate location.” Yao Lao said in a deep voice, “Now they had begun to form a circular formation and surround the approximate location. After which, they will search inch by inch from far to near. This method may sound stupid but it must be said that this is the

only way they can swiftly find you. Moreover, this region doesn't have any Magical Beasts of very high ranks. Therefore, with the suppression of the three Misty Cloud Sect elders imposing presence, the other Magical Beast would not dare come out and pose as a threat to them."

"What do we do then? The region that has been surrounded is becoming smaller. If we allow them to continue searching in this manner, we will likely become caged birds sooner or later." Xiao Yan frowned slightly and asked in his heart.

"We will shift our position within this small area. The region that they need to search is really too big. Moreover, they only have fifty or so flying Magical Beasts. The distance between them is quite large. As long as you can avoid the position where the three old fellows are at and borrow the cover of the dense forest, it will be difficult for the other Misty Cloud Sect disciples to discover you." Yao Lao mused out loud, "However, that energy trace within your body will ultimately act as a signpost for them. As long as we have not removed this thing, they will be able to discover your position."

"Can we not completely remove it?" Xiao Yan asked softly.

"Yes it is possible, but I have also said that when removing this energy trace, an intense ripple will instantly burst out. Moreover, that ripple would continue for quite some time. When that time comes, you will be completely exposed. Therefore, if you want to remove the energy trace you must at least shake the people chasing you. Otherwise, if you are not careful, you would unfortunately be totally surrounded like a dumpling being wrapped." Yao Lao spoke with helplessness in his voice.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He lifted his head and his gaze passed through the gaps of the cover of the leaves to eye a flying Magical Beast that was closest to him. He softly said, "Since this is the case, we will exhaust them first. Once night arrives, the difficulty of their search will increase greatly due to the limited range of their vision. When that time comes, I will take the opportunity to break through the boundary of their search. I will also need teacher to take action to completely remove the energy trace that Yun Shan had placed within my body. Otherwise, this chase will never

end.”

“Yes, that’s just as well.”

“Hei, now, let’s go and play a game with this group of people.” Xiao Yan laughed coldly. He hugged the tree trunk with his hands and agilely descended from the large tree. After which, he swiftly ran toward a certain position.

When Xiao Yan had left this spot, a Misty Cloud Elder in the sky frowned suddenly. He exchanged glances with the two beside him and said in a deep voice, “The energy trace of the old Sect Leader is becoming increasingly distant. It appears that Xiao Yan has discovered our plan and has begun to flee.”

“Humph. It won’t be so easy if he wants to leave!” The oldest Elder let out a cold laugh. He shut his eyes slightly before suddenly opening them a moment later. His gaze swept directly toward the south of the forest. He could sense that the fluctuations emitted by the energy trace were coming roughly from that direction.

The old man waved his hand and suddenly pointed in the direction that Xiao Yan was fleeing before crying out coldly. “‘Eagle Unit’, listen up. Maintain the formation. Change positions and head toward the south to search. Pay attention to the thing that is running at great speed within the forest.”

“Yes!” An orderly response reverberated through the sky. Immediately, a wave of eagle cries rang out. The tens of huge flying Magical Beasts suddenly turned their bodies and swiftly flew past the sea of trees.

Within the forest, Xiao Yan, who was moving swiftly also appeared to have sensed the change in the other party. He let out a cold laugh as his footsteps hurriedly paused. He twisted his body forcefully and actually changed his position before running again.

“Dammit. That cunning fellow has changed his direction!” Not long after Xiao Yan had changed his position, the three Misty Cloud Sect Elders were able to sense it earlier than anyone else. Their faces immediately became green as they angrily cursed.

The old man with a head full of white hair and an age that was clearly the greatest among the three coldly glanced toward the northern region. The corner of his mouth twitched slightly as he inhaled a deep breath of air before saying in a thick voice, "Follow him closely. I don't believe that injured body of his can last for long! If he wants to run, we will tire him to death!"

As his voice fell, the flying unit that was far away immediately changed their position with great coordination before once again flying in the direction which Xiao Yan was now heading.

However, the chase this time around similarly did not last for very long before Xiao Yan once again swiftly changed his position.

"Follow!" The white haired old man in the sky had a green face as he said in a cold thick voice.

It was as though a performance by the flying unit had begun above the vast sea of trees. One could see the tens of flying Magical Beast were repeatedly changing the direction in which they were flying. If one were to carefully observe, however, one would be able to discover that the direction they were flying in was ultimately revolving around a circle in this region.

This frolic-like farce continued from afternoon all the way until sunset. Only then did both parties began to slow down due to exhaustion. Both groups remained still as though they had agreed to it beforehand.

"Hu."

Xiao Yan's back was pressed against a tree trunk at a certain spot within the dense forest. He panted hurriedly and perspiration moved along his face as it rolled down. His chest rose and fell rapidly. Continuously running around at such great speeds for a full afternoon was something that even he, as a Da Dou Shi, would have difficulty maintaining if he were not supported by medicinal pills. It was fortunate, however, that those flying Magical Beasts of the Misty Cloud Sect had also become exhausted after he led them on the wild goose chase for an entire afternoon.

"The sky is finally becoming dark." Xiao Yan sighed in relief as he lifted

his head and eyed the sun which had descended halfway past the horizon. He carefully turned his gaze toward the flying unit in the distant sky and frowned slightly. Even if they were exhausted, it seemed that they were unlikely to do nothing like this? Had they given up?

“Forget it, who cares what exactly they are planning. In any case, once the sky completely darkens, I want to see how they will continue to chase me.” Xiao Yan laughed coldly. He took out an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’ from within his storage ring and stuffed it into his mouth. After which, he closed his eyes and sensed the gradual rolling warm medicinal strength within his body. His originally somewhat numb muscles seemed to have become much more comfortable.

The sun in the distant sky slowly descended. Finally, it completely sank as Xiao Yan had awaited.

When the sun completely fell behind the mountain, this part of the Magical Beast Mountain Range immediately fell into complete darkness.

The moment the darkness enveloped the land, Xiao Yan also slowly opened his eyes. He stood up, lifted his head, and glanced at the flying unit which had actually stopped in midair without any movement. His eyebrows could not help but frown slightly. He immediately let out a cold laugh, leaped down from the tall tree, and rushed toward a spot in the encirclement which seemed to be the weakest.

There was a commotion within the flying unit in the sky just as Xiao Yan made his move. Clearly, they had sensed that the fluctuation emitted by the energy trace was moving further away.

“Elder?” One of the people on the flying Magical Beast closest to the three elders hurriedly said.

“Maintain the encirclement formation. Everyone, do not move.” The white haired elder waved his hand and coldly said, “This time around, I want to see just how he will flee.”

“Yes.”

As Xiao Yan flashed forward, a moment later, he could not resist turning

his head and watching the sky. At that spot, a large group of dark, black shadows were still suspended and actually did not make the slightest move.

“What are those fellows planning to do?” Xiao Yan frowned intently and gently sighed. He was just thinking of ignoring them when his expression changed abruptly. His footsteps paused suddenly as his gaze stared intently at the dark black night sky where a flowing light was swiftly flashing past like a falling star.

“This Qi belongs to a Dou Huang’s. Dammit. These fellows were actually waiting for reinforcements.” Xiao Yan appeared to have understood something in that instant. He immediately cursed angrily as his body flashed before entering into the dark shadows. The presence all over his body was withdrawn to the extreme. His gaze also stared intently at the flowing light which was swiftly flashing over.

The flowing light instantly cut past the skyline and finally came to a sudden stop in front of the three Misty Cloud Sect Elders. The bright light gradually faded, revealing the graceful and noble figure of a beautiful woman.

“Sect Leader!”

When she appeared, everyone on the surrounding flying Magical Beasts, including the three Elders all hurriedly bowed.

Sect Leader. When one heard this form of address, it was natural for one to understand that the person who had just arrived was the current Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, Yun Yun!

“Yes.”

Yun Yun responded faintly. Her beautiful eyes swept across the dense forest in the darkness below. A complicated expression flashed across her pretty face. The cold, delicate, and handsome face of the young man once again surfaced in her mind.

“It is actually her.” Xiao Yan gently clenched his fist within the darkness and said softly with a cold smile.

“Sect Leader, Xiao Yan has killed our Misty Cloud Sect disciples. This offence cannot be pardoned. No matter how much he suppresses the energy trance in his body, he will have difficulty escaping from you since you have the same elemental affinity that belonged to the same line of succession as the old Sect Leader. Sect Leader, please take action and completely search out the energy trace emanating from his body!” The snow white haired Misty Cloud Elder took one step forward and spoke in a deep voice.

Yun Yun’s pretty body gently trembled a little. She was silent for a moment before she immediately closed her pretty eyes.

While Yun Yun was silent, the entire area descended into a deathlike silence. All the gazes were focused intently on her. This time around, whether Xiao Yan would be exposed was completely determined by a single thought of this woman!

Chapter 374: Sudden Arrival of Reinforcements

Within the dense forest, Xiao Yan clenched his teeth and stared intently at Yun Yun in the sky. He knew that the moment the latter appeared, he was likely to have his position completely revealed. It was just that he did not know if this woman who once had some entanglement with him would...

In the sky, Yun Yun, who had her eyes closed, gradually opened them. She slowly lifted her delicate finger which was struggling and trembling a little, and pointed toward the direction Xiao Yan was in. As her finger pointed at that spot, a faint white glow suddenly surged out from within the darkness. Although the white light was not too intense, it was undoubtedly a bright lamp leading the way in this complete darkness.

As he lowered his head to watch the faint white glow that was being emitted from within his body, Xiao Yan's heart was like an icehouse. He laughed softly and lifted his head. His cold gaze watched the person with peerless elegance in the sky before turning his body and running.

In the sky, Yun Yun had also borrowed the weak, white light to clearly see the glance which was so cold that it was void of emotion. She felt a pain that clamped at her heart as her pretty face grew even paler.

“Chase!”

Seeing the faint white light which had risen from the darkness, joy surfaced on the faces of the three elders. They let out a fierce cry and wild winds surged in the sky. Tens of huge shadows were chasing after the faint white light within the forest, ready to slaughter!

Yun Yun's body was suspended in midair. She eyed the flying unit chasing swiftly after the white glow within the forest. Her hand slowly tightened, her long fingers piercing deeply into her palm. Some red blood flowed along her fingers and dripped down.

“I'm sorry.” She laughed mockingly at herself in the night sky, clearly

knowing that by pointing with her finger earlier, she had truly killed any feelings Xiao Yan had toward her. However, even if she was extremely unwilling to do this, her position as a Sect Leader reminded her of her duty at all times. Regardless of the time, the sect's benefit was the most important thing! The her who had grown up in the Misty Cloud Sect from a young age had this thought instilled into her for so many years. It was easier said than done if she wanted to change.

Xiao Yan's expression was green as he glanced at the white glow which was being emitted uncontrollably from within his body. The sound of pressuring wind in the sky that was swiftly being transmitted over caused the corner of his mouth to twitch. His shoulders trembled slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings suddenly exploded forth. With a press of his feet against a tree branch, his body rose into the air. After that, his toes pressed against the sea of trees and his body turned into a white light that swiftly passed over it, as though he was chasing the stars and moon.

He did not use the Purple Cloud Wings in the past because he was afraid that his body would be discovered. However, his position was currently totally exposed. It would be useless for him to continue hiding.

Although he had already raised his speed to the limit, the three strong pressuring force behind him did not weaken by even a little. Instead, it was showing a tendency of becoming stronger. The Purple Cloud Wings may have been able to gift Xiao Yan the ability to fly, but his speed was ultimately inferior compared to a pair of true Dou Qi wings.

"Humph, Xiao Yan, little fellow. Tonight is the time you die! You think you can escape after killing my Misty Cloud Sect's disciples?" A dark and cold cry that contained killing intent broke through the air not far behind him and resounded throughout the mountain forest.

Xiao Yan did not even pay the slightest attention to the cry that had been transmitted from behind. He swiftly flapped the Purple Cloud Wings on his back, and his body was like a falling star in the night sky as he flew past the sea of trees in a lightning-like manner. Due to the wind pressure created by the high speed, he left a long trace above the sea of trees.

“Try your best to persevere. The energy trace in your body has been lured out by Yun Yun. Give me a little time and I will be able to suppress it.” Yao Lao’s voice sounded from within Xiao Yan’s heart while the latter focused completely on fleeing.

Xiao Yan could only nod his head slightly. The corner of his eyes drifted toward the three flowing lights behind him which were becoming increasingly close and could not resist twitching. Xiao Yan gritted his teeth hard. The Dou crystal within the vortex in his body, that was emitting a bright light, trembled slightly. Waves of pure liquid energy flowed out from within it before moving along the veins and swiftly circulated. They were finally poured into the pair of Purple Cloud Wings on his back.

Upon receiving this large amount of energy as fuel, a faint purple glow began to gradually appear from the pair of Purple Cloud Wings. Some strange lines had also surfaced on the wings. As they flapped, there was actually a faint wind and lightning sound which appeared somewhat frightening.

After this strange change appeared on the Purple Cloud Wings, his speed had also suddenly soared greatly. It was actually able to increase the gap between Xiao Yan and the three Misty Cloud Sect Elders behind by a little within a short period of time.

“What? This fellow’s speed has actually gone up by so much?” Behind Xiao Yan, a Misty Cloud Sect Elder saw the former’s speed suddenly increase. His expression changed slightly as he spoke involuntarily.

“Moreover, the white light that is being emitted from his body is also becoming increasingly weak. Looks like he is suppressing that energy ripple. Yun Ke, Yun Zhong, let’s not hold anything back. If we let him escape from our hands once more, what right do we have to be Elders?” That old man, who was the oldest among them, had an icy cold expression as he cried out in a deep voice.

“Yes.” Hearing this, the other two people replied in unison. As their voices fell, three powerful forces surged out of each of their bodies. Immediately, the Dou Qi wings which were originally around five feet in

length suddenly expanded until they were over ten feet long.

The wings flapped in union and a thundering rumble resonated through the air. Immediately, the three figures strangely disappeared from the spot they were in as though they had teleported. When they reappeared, they were actually already tens of meters away.

“This is bad.” The ear-piercing sound of rushing wind that had been transmitted from behind him caused Xiao Yan’s expression to change. The corner of his eyes hurriedly drifted back to take a look. He was shocked to realize that three ghost-like figures were actually not even twenty meters away from him.

A few fleeing methods flashed in his heart in a lightning-like manner, but Xiao Yan finally rejected all of them. An instant later, he violently clenched his teeth and stepped heavily onto the sea of trees. Immediately, his body directly landed within a forest.

“Putt, putt.” The dense branches struck his face, causing Xiao Yan to gently inhale a few breaths of cool air. When his feet touched the ground, however, his eyes suddenly shrunk. From his perception, he had suddenly realized that there were dozens of obscure Qis within this forested area where he had landed.

“Have I fallen for the other side’s scheme?” A shocking thought flashed in his heart. Suddenly, a shadow pounced out from the side before the body swiftly nestled close to Xiao Yan. One hand covered Xiao Yan’s mouth.

“Xiao Yan di-di, it’s me. Don’t panic!” Just as the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan’s body was about to spew out and shake the person who had nestled close to him away, a numbing, soft sound could be heard.

TL: di-di – meaning younger brother (not blood related in this case, just a form of address)

When he heard this familiar voice, the Dou Qi in Xiao Yan’s body which was about to explode out suddenly became dull. He lowered his head and borrowed the weak white glow being emitted from within his body to see an enchantingly exquisite face that contained some concern.

“Ya Fei jie?” The familiar face caused Xiao Yan to quietly sigh in relief. He said in a surprised but soft voice, “What are you doing here? Hurry up and leave!”

TL: jie – older sister (not blood related in this case, just a form of address)

“Shush. Don’t worry, those three Elders from the Misty Cloud Sect are temporarily being held back by Old Hai. This is a map of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. You can use it to help you leave the Jia Ma Empire. Hurry up and leave. Walk toward the south of this place. As long as you get out of the forest and sneak into the city, the Misty Cloud Sect will have a much more difficult time trying to catch you!” Ya Fei swiftly took out a map from within her storage ring, pressed it into Xiao Yan’s hand as she spoke in a hurried voice.

Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. He lifted his head and eyed the sky which was covered by the dense tree cover. There were indeed numerous fierce energy ripples which were being emitted from the night sky there.

“You all...” Xiao Yan held the map tightly and eyed the pretty face which was covered with anxiety. He suddenly felt his throat being blocked. After he announced war with the Misty Cloud Sect, this enormous being, only Ya Fei and Old Hai had extended their helping hand toward him. He clearly knew that this action of the Primer clan would bring them a lot of trouble. After all, no matter how one put it, the Misty Cloud Sect was the strongest faction within the Jia Ma Empire.

“Ya Fei jie, I, Xiao Yan, am not some beast who doesn’t know how to repay favors given. I, Xiao Yan, will not forget the kindness you and Old Hai have given until I die. If this Xiao Yan were to return to the Jia Ma Empire in the future, I will definitely repay this kindness by a hundredfold!” Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air and said in a deep voice.

“Ke ke, jie-jie believes that you will be a truly strong person the next time we meet. This is the conclusion I came to three years ago.” Ya Fei

smiled as she spoke. Her delicate hand touched the delicate and handsome face of the young man, which was covered by a piercing coldness.

“Alright, hurry up and leave. The flying unit of the Misty Cloud Sect is about to hurry over. Moreover, Yun Yun will arrive soon.”

“Yes.” Xiao Yan nodded his head. He lowered it and eyed the bewitching face. Suddenly, he extended his hand and violently embraced her. His face was extended into her soft long hair and deeply inhaled the refreshing fragrance of her hair. He softly said, “Ya Fei jie, the next time that we meet, I will definitely not refuse any request of yours as long as I, Xiao Yan, am able to achieve it.”

Ya Fei was initially startled when she was suddenly roughly hugged by Xiao Yan. A bright, intoxicating redness immediately surfaced on her enchanting face. After she heard Xiao Yan’s words, a teasing glint flashed in her peach blossom-like eyes. She said in a gentle voice, “Little fellow, this is something you have said. A great man cannot repudiate his promises.”

“As long as I can achieve it, I, Xiao Yan, will not reject it, even if you want to be a Queen.” Xiao Yan released the narrow waist which was so soft that it appeared boneless before laughing boldly.

“Jie-jie is not interested in being a Queen.” Ya Fei covered her mouth and laughed softly. She immediately remembered that they were pressed for time and hurriedly rebuked him by patting Xiao Yan’s head and urged, “Hurry and leave!”

“Ya Fei jie, goodbye. Help me tell Old Hai that I, Xiao Yan, will never forget this favor of his today until I die!” Xiao Yan nodded his head heavily. He ceased procrastinating, cupped his hands toward Ya Fei, and immediately turned around. His body charged into the darkness of the black forest in a lightning-like manner.

Ya Fei stood on the original spot and watched the back of the figure which had faded away into the darkness. A long while later, she sighed in an absentminded manner and said softly, “Little fellow. Jie-jie awaits your

return. Three years ago, I knew that this small Jia Ma Empire would not be able to keep you. With your talent, the vast continent is the only stage where you can display your true strength.”

“Jie-jie will await your return. When that time comes, I believe that even the Misty Cloud Sect can only hide and tremble under your feet!”

“Flying unit, go and capture Xiao Yan!” An angry cry suddenly sounded in the sky.

As the cry sounded, tens of flying Magical Beasts in the night sky immediately made a detour around the battleground in the sky, and pounced toward the increasingly weak white glow within the forest.

Within the forest, Ya Fei raised her head and coldly watched the huge flying beasts that had flown over. She waved her hand and coldly cried, “Shadow Guards, listen up. Cut them down!”

Ya Fei’s voice had just fell when tens of shadows from the darkness of the surrounding forest suddenly shot out. Their Dou Qi surged immediately and almost expelled all the darkness in this section of the forest.

When he heard the waves of rioting sounds that were transmitted from far behind him, Xiao Yan tightened his fist. He placed the map into his storage ring. The white light that was currently emitted from within his body had completely disappeared under Yao Lao’s suppression.

Xiao Yan’s gaze swiftly swept in all directions. Once he had regained his bearings, his toes pressed gently against the ground and his body shot forward explosively, like an arrow that had left the string of a bow.

“Shi.” The rushing figure shot forward nearly a distance of a hundred meters in a lightning-like manner. Suddenly, Xiao Yan’s expression changed abruptly. His feet hooked onto a tree branch and his body was straight as it fell forward. He immediately made a three hundred and sixty degree turn. He twisted his body and steadily landed on a tree branch.

Xiao Yan stood on the tree branch and eyed the edge of the forest not far away with icy cold eyes. At that spot, a moon white robe was gently

fluttering. A pretty face that could be called peerlessly elegant was waiting.

Xiao Yan gaze was cold as it swept across the face. He suddenly tightened his fist. The final person who had appeared to stop him was shockingly Yun Yun!

Chapter 375: Escape

Xiao Yan's body was standing completely still on a tree branch. He coldly watched Yun Yun who was at the exit of the forest. His hand shook and the huge Heavy Xuan Ruler flashed and appeared. He waved the heavy ruler, and the pressuring sound of air being cut appeared before it was pointed at the beauty.

Yun Yun slowly raised her head. Her pretty eyes stared at the black-robed young man on the tree branch. A complicated expression flashed over her face as she softly asked, "Are you alright?"

"Thanks to you, I was almost buried here." Xiao Yan smiled, but the words spat out from his mouth were so icy and cold that it seemed to be devoid of any warmth.

"I am also forced to do this. As the Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, I must shoulder some responsibilities." Yun Yun smiled bitterly, seemingly trying to explain something.

Xiao Yan glanced at her indifferently and said, "Do you want to capture me and bring me back? After that you want to let Yun Shan kill me in public?"

Yun Yun's pretty face paled as she muttered, "Teacher will not kill you."

"Ke ke, perhaps he might not actually kill me, but your Misty Cloud Sect has so many tricks. Just a random seal and then lock me up in the Misty Cloud Sect. That will cause people to be even more crazy than death." Xiao Yan ridiculed as he smiled.

"That won't happen. As long as you return with me, I will try my best to protect your life! Is that alright? Xiao Yan, let's not blow things up any bigger than they are now." Yun Yun took a step forward and said anxiously. Her tone of voice faintly implied that she was begging.

"Is there even the slightest possibility of the Misty Cloud Sect and I reconciling? You are in any case also a Sect Leader. Don't tell me that you cannot even see such a small thing clearly? If I land in the Misty Cloud

Sect's hands, there is only one path for me. Death! There will definitely not be another route for me to choose!" Xiao Yan laughed coldly, "Don't tell me that you can even change Yun Shan's decision?"

Yun Yun parted her red lips slightly, seemingly wanting to say something. However, she realized that she could say nothing to persuade him. With her intelligence, she could naturally faintly guess what fate Xiao Yan would face should he fall into the Misty Cloud Sect's hands. However, the her who was caught in the middle of both parties was still somewhat naively hoping that a miracle would occur.

"There is no need to continue speaking any nonsense. Just attack. If you are bent on stopping me, then..." Xiao Yan shook the heavy ruler slightly and said in a bland voice, "You can take my corpse back."

Yun Yun bit her bottom red lip tightly with the back of her teeth. She shook her head slightly. Her voice was somewhat hoarse as she said, "You should know that it is impossible for me to kill you."

Xiao Yan's face was cold as he leaped down from a tree branch. He held the heavy ruler in his hand and slowly walked toward Yun Yun one step at a time. Powerful Dou Qi flowed out from him, forming a flaming armor on the surface of his body.

Yun Yun's pretty eyes stared at the black-robed young man who was walking over slowly. Her lovely body trembled slightly. The pair of eyes which were usually filled with dignity were filled with a complicated expression at this moment. Her hands within her sleeves which were clenched tightly before relaxing immediately. This continued repeatedly, revealing the difficult decision she was making in her heart.

Xiao Yan footsteps landed on the green grass on the ground, releasing a soft 'sha sha' sound. His eyes stared intently at Yun Yun while his hand held the Heavy Xuan Ruler tightly. The Dou Qi in his body was like a flowing river that was surging, ready to erupt at any moment.

The distance between the two slowly decreased. A strange atmosphere wrapped around this small section of the forest.

As the soft 'sha sha' sounded, Xiao Yan finally walked to a spot five

meters in front of Yun Yun.

Yun Yun lowered her face. Her lovely body, which repeatedly emitted a gentle tremble suddenly became quiet. A terrifying force slowly rose from within her body. In an instant, it caused the air in this small section of the forest to solidify.

The corner of Xiao Yan's eyes gently twitched. He lifted his hand which was carrying the Heavy Xuan Ruler slightly. In his heart, he knew that if Yun Yun really wanted to capture him, he would have little strength to resist.

Xiao Yan gently crossed his footsteps and finally stopped in front of Yun Yun. He gently sniffed a breath of the faint fragrance that came from the other party's body and asked indifferently, "Are you prepared to attack?"

When she heard Xiao Yan open his mouth, Yun Yun's lovely body trembled again. She slowly lifted her pretty face, which was covered with a trace of bitterness. Her gaze was locked on to the young man's delicate and handsome face as she softly asked, "Are you really not going to return with me?"

"You can bring my corpse back."

Xiao Yan smiled coldly as he repeated his words from earlier. Immediately, he ceased having the slightest hesitation. He turned his body, moved away from Yun Yun and strode toward the edge of the forest.

His feet had just took a step forward when the terrifying force behind him soared once more. Immediately, a force came striking explosively toward Xiao Yan's back.

As he sensed the lightning fast attack from behind him, Xiao Yan's heart was immediately like an ice house. His entire body was cold as he mocked himself and shook his head. He muttered, "She still ended up attacking."

Xiao Yan sighed and actually closed his eyes slowly. His hand gently rubbed his sleeves. In his heart, he clearly knew that if Yun Yun was intent on killing him, the current him did not have the slightest ability to resist. Only the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' could slightly obstruct her.

The force approached Xiao Yan's body in the blink of an eye. Just as Xiao Yan was prepared to release the 'Heaven Swallowing Python', however, that force suddenly turned into a gentle one. It gently struck Xiao Yan's back. Immediately, the latter's body was gently pushed forward.

Under the star filled sky, the young man was a little stunned as he opened his eyes. When the force earlier had struck his back, he could clearly sense that the energy trace which Yun Shan had imprinted within his body had actually quietly dissolved.

Xiao Yan turned around and looked at Yun Yun weakly leaning on a tree trunk. His throat rolled a little. "What do you mean by this?"

"Go, leave the Jia Ma Empire. Do not return in the future. Otherwise, teacher will definitely not let you off. The Misty Cloud Sect will also not let you off." Yun Yun waved her hand. Her soft voice held an exhaustion that was difficult to hide. Being caught between both parties had really caused her to feel extremely tired.

Xiao Yan looked deeply at the woman with a graceful figure. A long while later, he said softly, "Thank you very much. However, I will return. I will definitely return!"

"You..." Yun Yun's eyebrows were vertical. She was a little angry at Xiao Yan's stubbornness. She waved her sleeves angrily and said, "I will definitely not let you off the next time we meet! I am too lazy to bother about whether you live or die!"

"The next time we meet, you may not have this chance to let me go. Because I am also not sure just when I will return." Xiao Yan shrugged his shoulders and eyed Yun Yun's furious, but pretty face. For some unknown reason, some warmth actually surfaced in his originally icy cold heart once again. Perhaps, the 'Yun Zhi' in the mountain cave back then had not really disappeared.

As he thought of this point, Xiao Yan's heart suddenly had an additional feeling that was difficult to describe with words. He turned around and took a few steps forward to stand in front of Yun Yun. The two of them looked at each other.

“Why are you not leaving?” Yun Yun gaze could not resist dodging Xiao Yan as she said with a mild anger when the latter’s dark black pupils stared intently at her. At this moment, her emotions were a mess that she could not straighten out. Logic told her that given the duty and power that came with her status, she ought to immediately capture this fellow who dared to challenge the Misty Cloud Sect and bring him back. However, a certain strange feeling blocked her logic. It was due to this that there was a change in her palm attack earlier as it moved toward her target.

“I believe that the current you is more like the Yun Zhi that I met in the mountain cave.” Xiao Yan inspected the graceful, pretty face which was originally covered with a sense of nobility. At this moment, it had some of the panic of a young lady. Xiao Yan was suddenly reminded of the charming and warm days back when they had resided within the mountain cave. His originally cold voice had become much softer.

Yun Yun was startled upon hearing this. Her pulse immediately jumped rapidly. She forcefully suppressed the feeling in her heart which was rattling like a small deer and purposefully acted indifferent as she said, “Yun Yun is Yun Zhi, Yun Zhi is Yun Yun. This is something that you should have long since known. Moreover, when you were at the Misty Cloud Mountain, did you not say that from now on, whether I am Yun Yun or Yun Zhi, I have no relation to you?”

“I don’t have any good impressions of the Misty Cloud Sect Sect Leader Yun Yun. But toward Yun Zhi, I have great amounts of good impressions. Those days in the mountain cave back then was a time that I, Xiao Yan, will never forget until I die.” Xiao Yan laughed softly and suddenly extended his hand. Under Yun Yun’s completely stunned expression, he slowly hugged that pretty waist under her Sect Leader’s robe which appeared too small to be completely embraced.

Yun Yun’s pretty face instantly changed, flaring to a bright red similar to a flaming cloud upon being hugged by Xiao Yan. Even the delicate tips of her ears had turned bright red. With her strength, as long as she quietly released a little force, Xiao Yan would be shaken to the point where he would vomit blood and step back. At this moment, however, her entire

body had grown numb, and was unable to even summon forth the slightest bit of Dou Qi. She was like a little girl, who was in love for the first time, being hugged by her lover. She was at a loss, but was greedily absorbing this foreign yet soothing, special feeling.

Although a warm fragrance was in his chest, there was not the slightest lust in his eyes. His dark, black pupils were as clear as a deep spring. After hugging Yun Yun for half a minute, he released his hands and slowly pulled back.

“Actually, I feel quite regretful. I regret forcefully enduring like a sage who had no hopes or desires in the mountain cave back then. I think that if I had done something at that time...” As he stepped back, Xiao Yan suddenly laughed. His laughter contained some teasing.

“Then I would have killed you on the spot. If that were the case, we would also be saved from this large trouble today.” The redness of Yun Yun’s face also slowly withdrew as Xiao Yan stepped back. When she heard Xiao Yan say this, her pretty eyes became slits as she angrily said.

“Ke ke, the farewell ceremony is completed.”

Xiao Yan laughed before sighing. He cupped his hands toward Yun Yun and said, “Help me inform Yun Shan that I, Xiao Yan, will still return! When that time comes, I will make him repay today’s debts!”

Once he finished saying this, Xiao Yan finally ceased remaining in this location. He suddenly turned around, and strode into the distance before being absorbed into the darkness a long while later.

Yun Yun stood in the same spot and eyed that black figure which had gradually disappeared. The smile on her face slowly disappeared, and a bitterness surfaced. She muttered softly, “Although it brings pain to my heart, I hope that you will never return. Time will cause all hatred to fade away. However, it may really be as teacher said, I may have to be alone for my entire life.”

“However, since you have already left, the identity of Yun Zhi, who became excited because of you will completely disappear. The future me will be the Sect Leader of the Misty Cloud Sect, Yun Yun. These personal

feelings originally should not belong to me. Just treat this time as me being willful for once.”

Lifting her head, Yun Yun’s gaze stared at the vast sky and faintly sighed. The gentleness and weakness on her face swiftly disappeared. Replacing it was the coldness and majesty which controlled the largest faction in the Jia Ma Empire. Her body swayed slightly and slowly disappeared like a ghost.

“Little fellow, remember my words. Since you have already left, don’t come back ever again.” A faint voice quietly reverberated throughout the forest, lingering for a long while without dispersing.

Chapter 376: Da Ling City

Da Ling City was located in the north-western region of the Jia Ma Empire. Its size may not be comparable large cities like the capital, but when compared to Wu Tan City, it was still quite a lot larger. Moreover, it neighbored the Magical Beast Mountain Range which covered nearly half of the empire. Therefore, countless risk takers and business groups came and went, giving the city a never ending flow of human traffic.

At the northern city gate of Da Ling City, the human flow moving to and from the city nearly clogged the city gate. Not far away from the northern gate was the seemingly endless Magical Beast Mountain Range. Small groups of mercenary troops with differing line-ups were repeatedly entering and exiting from this point, much like ants moving their home. Occasionally, there would be troops which used a horse cart to carry the corpse of a Magical Beast running out of the forest and a wisp of dust behind. This would attract numerous envious gazes from those around. It was not an easy matter to kill satisfactory prey within the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

“Bah, we were really unlucky, losing two brothers in order to kill a tier two Magical Beast. In the end, it is a rock egg without treasures.” Seven large men covered in blood cursed as they walked out of the forest entrance. On the horse cart frame behind them, there lay the large corpse of a Magical Beast. The head of the corpse had been cut open and there was only the brain, fresh blood, and some other things without the most precious object: the Monster Core. From the mercenary jargon that appeared in their conversation, this kind of Magical Beast without a Monster Core was called a rock egg without treasure.

TL: brothers here means brothers in arms/companions, not actual brothers

“If there was a rank 2 Monster Core within this damn thing, we would be able to put together sufficient money to purchase a High Huang Level Qi Method from the auction house.” A large man’s face was filled with disgruntlement as he spoke.

“High Huang Level, ah. Those kinds of Qi Methods would need up to one hundred and ten thousand gold coins. It’s just like a blood sucking ghost.” A man who appeared to be the leader spat out his saliva and scolded.

“Hee hee, the Misty Cloud Sect issued a wanted order. Anyone who is able to provide clues would be able to obtain a Xuan Class Qi Method. He could even be given the chance to be accepted into the Misty Cloud Sect. We can go and try our luck. In that way, we don’t have to waste our lives to exchange things for money to buy Qi Method.” A somewhat skinny man wiped the blood trace off his face and spoke with a laugh. When he mentioned the Xuan Class Qi Method, a greed that was difficult to hide flashed across his eyes.

“Skinny monkey, have you become stupid after being with so many women?” That man, who seemed to be the leader, coldly glanced at him. He smacked his lips and said, “Don’t tell me you don’t know the person the Misty Cloud Sect is chasing after? Xiao Yan! That mysterious person who became the champion of the Alchemist Grand Meeting. He is also the frightening person who charged into the Misty Cloud Sect twice, killing Yun Leng, who was of the Dou Wang class, and managed to escape unharmed from the hands of Yun Shan, who is of the Dou Zong class. Do you think that he is the kind of person that people like us can afford to offend?”

“Hee hee, I am only saying it as a joke. How is it possible for us to meet that kind of person.” The skinny man laughed awkwardly as he said, “However, I have heard that the Misty Cloud Sect has already issued this wanted order throughout the entire empire. This kind of attractive condition would really cause people to be interested. I think that even if Xiao Yan escaped from the Misty Cloud Sect, he would have difficulty moving even half an inch within the Jia Ma Empire.

“Does this matter have even the slightest relationship with us? Don’t just naively daydream all day. Even if you were to meet him, don’t tell me that you can use that broken knife of yours to stop him?” The man leading the group laughed coldly, “Don’t dawdle. Hurry up and get back to the city to rest for the day. Tomorrow, we still need to continue staking our lives.

Otherwise, with our current Middle Huang Qi Method, just when would it be before we can break through to the Dou Shi class?”

As the leader of the group scolded, the men with the blood stains could only murmur unhappily and start stumbling towards the City Gate.

After the group of men left, a human figure which was completely covered by a black robe suddenly walked slowly out from the deep forest. His gaze swept in front of him. Immediately, he lowered his head slightly, allowing the shadow of his Doupeng to cover nearly half his face.

TL: Doupeng – a conical bamboo hat with a cloth dangling from it to cover the head

“Have they begun searching for me throughout the country? Yun Shan is really willing to fork out money.” The black-robed person coldly laughed. He lifted his head slightly and revealed half of a delicate and handsome face beneath. Seeing the familiar contour, it was surprisingly Xiao Yan, who had escaped from the Misty Cloud Sect!

Ever since the day that Yun Yun allowed Xiao Yan to leave, he had relied on the map which Ya Fei had given him to take a long detour and spent nearly ten days trekking through the forest in order to completely shake off the people who perservered in chasing after him. After that, he rested for one day before following the map and walking all the way to the north-western border of the Jia Ma Empire through the Magical Beast Mountain Range. He spent another seven days hurrying on his journey before he arrived at this Da Ling City, which was close to the north-western border of the Jia Ma Empire.

Using the map as a reference, as long as he passed through this Da Ling City and through another few checkpoints, he would easily arrive at the border of the Jia Ma Empire. When that time came, all he needed to do was leave the Jia Ma Empire and the wanted order by the Misty Cloud Sect would become completely ineffective.

The Misty Cloud Sect may still have some deterrent effects outside the country, but it was far inferior compared to the reputation it enjoyed within the Jia Ma Empire. Naturally, other factions would not bother with

wanted orders from whatever sect it was. During these years, the Misty Cloud Sect had remained firmly entrenched within the Jia Ma Empire and did its best to eliminate factions from outside the empire. Therefore, it resulted in the Misty Cloud Sect not being well known outside the empire.

During the nearly one month in which Xiao Yan hurried through the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he had also suffered great hardship. Although the presence of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' had resulted in ordinary Magical Beast not daring to come forward to block him, the Magical Beast Mountain Range was so vast that it naturally did not lack some unique beasts with terrifying strength. Other Magical Beasts may be afraid of the 'Heaven Swallowing Python', but they were not. Therefore, Xiao Yan was still being chased all over during the journey despite having already escaped from the Misty Cloud Sect.

Although hurrying through the journey during this period of time had caused Xiao Yan to suffer great hardships, the thing which caused him the greatest excitement was that Yao Lao's exhausted Spirit had finally completely recovered after being nursed back to health for half a month. At this moment, Xiao Yan's heart, which had been maintaining a cautious state, finally relaxed. No matter how one put it, with Yao Lao present, it at least meant that he had a trump card to protect his life.

Moreover, due to the deposited remnant medicinal effects within his body, Xiao Yan actually had the ability to raise his strength once again during this one month of escape after his large breakthrough. During an escape from the mouth of a Dou Wang class Magical Beast, Xiao Yan actually raised his strength without realizing it. Xiao Yan had thus become a four star Da Dou Shi in such a short amount of time!

If one were to add the hurried growth from the medicine within the mountain cave last month, Xiao Yan's strength had actually jumped three stars within this one month. This kind of speed could definitely be described by one word, 'frightening'. Although the main reason for this was the life and death battles, that he experienced during this period of time and the remaining medicinal effects within his body, it could not cover up Xiao Yan's training talent which caused even Yao Lao to praise

him repeatedly.

Of course, excluding all these, the thing that caused Xiao Yan's heart to be filled with the most joy was that he began to clearly understand some parts of the 'Burning Flame Valley's' guarded Secret Technique, the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change', three days ago after a month's worth of practice and under the guidance of Yao Lao. He may have failed a couple of times during this period, but from the looks of how his strength still managed to soar greatly despite these failed attempts, Xiao Yan could faintly sense the concept of the Secret Technique. He had the confidence that as long as he was given sufficient time, he would definitely be able to truly master the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change' successfully. When that time came he would have difficulty finding any opponents that could contend with him at the Da Dou Shi level or even higher with his strength was raised by this 'Secret Technique'!

In summary, the benefits that Xiao Yan had obtained during this one month of flight had nearly caused him to smile until his mouth cracked.

"Hee hee." As he thought of his gains over this past month, he could not resist laughing, ignoring the strange gazes that others beside him shot over. He pulled the Doupeng down a little and hid his entire face within the dark shadows. His gaze scanned the city's entrance a short distance away, where people were coming and going, before slowly walking over. With the situation he was in now, it was better to leave the Jia Ma Empire as soon as possible. The current Xiao Yan did not have the qualification to go and pay back those debts with his current strength. However, it was fortunate that he was not in a hurry. It was because he knew that his greatest advantage was that he was young, and had plenty of time to spend.

Xiao Yan walked closer to the city gate and queued up at the back of the line. His gaze swept all around him before frowning slightly as his gaze settled on a white paper pasted to the city gate. At this moment, there were two completely different faces drawn on the white paper. Xiao Yan's gaze swept over it and realized that of the two faces, one was his current appearance, while the other was actually the appearance of Yan Xiao, the

identity he had used to participate in the Alchemist Grand Meeting. Clearly, this was a plan formed because the Misty Cloud Sect was afraid that Xiao Yan would once again use the identity of Yan Xiao and take the opportunity to flee from the Jia Ma Empire.

“Yun Shan has spent quite a lot of effort in order to capture me.” Xiao Yan laughed coldly. His gaze glanced at the city gate and realized that the troops guarding the city were actually checking the identity of those entering the city along the way. Before each person entered, two soldiers would hold a drawing and compare it with their appearance for a long while before letting them enter.

“Is the Jia Ma Empire Imperial family quietly helping the Misty Cloud Sect?” Xiao Yan frowned slightly as he muttered, “With Jia Xing Tian’s scheming mind, he should know just what kind of enemy he would create for the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial Family should I escape if he went against me at this moment. Moreover, the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial family and the Misty Cloud Sect aren’t very friendly with one another.”

“Damn Mu Sang. Isn’t he just a city guard? He is actually this arrogant. Does he think that he alone has the final say in Da Ling City? How is he not afraid that if he were to really meet Xiao Yan, the latter would smack him to death with his ruler.” The moment when Xiao Yan felt some doubt, a man who had waited for a long while in front of him suddenly cursed with an impatient face.

“Shush. Don’t be so loud. Although the wanted order for Xiao Yan is not related to the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial family, Mu Sang is someone who came from the Misty Cloud Sect. Since he received the wanted order from the sect, he naturally needs to prioritize his own interest under the guise of performing public work and perform well.” A man who appeared to be his companion hurriedly grabbed him and whispered.

“Using another’s influence to bully others.” The man spat a mouthful of saliva and cursed unhappily. However, he did not open his mouth and let out abuses as he did a moment ago. Clearly, the person called Mu Sang still caused him some fear.

“It was actually someone who had come from the Misty Cloud Sect.” Xiao Yan absorbed the conversation between the two into his ears. Only then did he come to a sudden realization. The Misty Cloud Sect disciples were spread all over the Jia Ma Empire. With their ability, they were not lacking in people who held official posts within the Jia Ma Empire. Now that they had received the wanted order from the sect, all they needed to do was to quietly use the authority in their hands, and they would be able to swiftly deploy people to intercept at all checkpoints within the Jia Ma Empire. It was only now that Xiao Yan faintly sensed just what kind of power the Misty Cloud Sect had within the Jia Ma Empire. No wonder even the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial family, which controlled the entire Jia Ma Empire, feared them.

Xiao Yan mused in his heart before pulling out of the queue that was gradually moving forward. After which, he made a turn at a corner and arrived at a remote part of the city wall. He lifted his head and glanced at the sleepy patrol units on the city wall. His back trembled slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings were slowly extended. He bent his feet slightly and in a certain instant, he flapped the wings on his back. His body abruptly soared before his toes pressed onto the city wall and he transformed into a black shadow which climbed the city wall in a lightning-like manner. After which, he leaped down onto the other side of the city wall before the patrolling soldiers turned their heads.

Xiao Yan’s feet had just touched the ground when he hurriedly flashed to the back of a building. He patted his hands and stored the Purple Cloud Wings. Only then did he leisurely walk into this city, which was one of the few that he needed to pass by before leaving the Jia Ma Empire. He needed to obtain some information regarding the Misty Cloud Sect during this one month.

Chapter 377: The Preparation Before Leaving

Xiao Yan slowly walked into the city. He passed through the street which had a turbulent human flow. He swept his gaze, and his brows slightly knit together. This was because he realized that on some of the pillars on the street, there were actually wanted posters issued by the Misty Cloud Sect pasted onto them. On those white papers, his appearance was drawn with great clarity. Moreover, the Xuan Class Qi Method that was listed as a reward had also caused quite a number of people to stop under it with their eyes revealing some greediness. For many people, a Xuan Class Qi Method was something that one may meet, but cannot hope for.

TL: may meet, but cannot hope for – one may be lucky to find something, but one cannot expect to obtain it otherwise

“Looks like there really is some trouble.” Xiao Yan carefully hid his face under the shadows of the Doupeng as he softly muttered in his heart.

“Let’s leave the Jia Ma Empire as soon as possible. The influence of the Misty Cloud Sect here is indeed too great. With your current strength, it is insufficient to contend with them.” Yao Lao’s voice suddenly sounded.

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly and nodded. He suddenly sighed gently. The feeling of being driven out like a dog which had lost its home was really not very good. Although he had openly said that he would return sooner or later, there was still a very long route to walk in order for a Da Dou Shi to reach the Dou Zong class.

“Little fellow, why are your thoughts drifting again? With your own strength, you challenged the Misty Cloud Sect and managed to leave in one piece. The result of such a battle would lead a countless number of people from not only within the Jia Ma Empire, but also the Dou Qi Continent to widen their eyes and feel tongue-tied. Moreover, I think that there is likely quite a number of people within the Jia Ma Empire who admire your courage. After all, even some Dou Huangs cannot be compared to you, a little child in your teens, when it comes to boldness.”

Yao Lao appeared to have sensed Xiao Yan's thoughts and he shook his head helplessly before voicing some words of comfort.

"Hee hee." Xiao Yan rubbed his head and laughed awkwardly. Upon hearing Yao Lao's somewhat old voice, Xiao Yan suddenly recalled the plan the former had when he taught him the mysterious 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method. He could not resist laughing softly in his heart, "Teacher, I remember that you seemed to have said back then that as long as I worked hard to gather 'Heavenly Flames', I will be able to help you refine a perfect body to hold your spirit? Can that be considered as a form of rebirth?"

When Xiao Yan was speaking the sentence about refining a body, he could clearly sense that Yao Lao's spirit had abruptly trembled intensely. He was immediately a little stunned. Ever since he came to know Yao Lao, this mysterious teacher of his had appeared to always remain calm and amiable. This was the first time Xiao Yan had sensed anything similar to this spirit fluctuation.

"Looks like teacher is very concerned over this matter." Xiao Yan blinked and suddenly felt an inexplicable shame. During these three years, Yao Lao had spent an extremely great amount of effort in order to help him become strong. Yet, he had nearly completely forgotten about his teacher's matter because of the so called 'Three Year Agreement'."

The vibrating spirit persisted for nearly half a minute before it gradually calmed down. Yao Lao suppressed his emotions as he said with a smile "Ah, speaking of this, back then, after I got to know you and decided to teach you the 'Flame Mantra' which I had undergone great hardships in order to obtain, my main goal was for you to create a merged flame after you had successfully practiced the 'Flame Mantra'. Using this flame, you could help me refine a body, in the future, which can contain my spirit."

"After all, that never ending darkness in the ring which is like a prison is really too much of a torment. Moreover, there are some matters which still require me to come out and settle."

When he reached the end of his words, Yao Lao's voice slowly became a little low and desolate. It was likely that he had remembered the dark

times during the period he was in a slumber.

Xiao Yan's finger slowly caressed the black ring within his sleeve and gently sighed. He mused for a moment before a bright smile suddenly appeared on his face. In a gentle voice, he smiled and said, "Thank you for these three years, teacher."

"Ke ke, you... child, why have you suddenly become so sentimental? This isn't like you." Xiao Yan's gentle voice caused Yao Lao to be startled. He was immediately so moved that he smiled involuntarily.

"Teacher has invested so much in me. As a student, I may naturally know that I need to repay this kindness." Xiao Yan's voice was somewhat hoarse as he laughed softly, "Rest assured, teacher, I will firmly remember the matter of your revival within my heart in the future."

"I am satisfied that you have this thought. Being able to teach such an outstanding student in my distressed state has settled one wish of mine." Yao Lao smiled and then replied.

Xiao Yan's gaze slowly swept across the two sides of the street and suddenly asked in his heart, "That's right, how many kinds of 'Heavenly Flames' are required to be merged together in order to refine a body?"

"This... should be three types. I am also not very certain. That 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method is far too mysterious and strange. I don't have a deep understanding of it. Back then, when I obtained it..." Yao Lao suddenly ceased speaking when he spoke to this point and abruptly became quiet.

"Three kinds huh." Xiao Yan was not bothered by Yao Lao's silence. He frowned slightly and voiced his thoughts, "Now that I have control of the 'Green Lotus Core Flame', and I am able to use the 'Bone Chilling Flame' with teacher's cooperation, does it not mean that if I were to collect another type of 'Heavenly Flame', I should be able to try to help you refine a body?"

"It should be possible." The voice of the silent Yao Lao suddenly had a little hint of excitement contained within.

Xiao Yan blinked and laughed softly, "I am very curious just whether

teacher's strength can reach its peak condition of the past after you have recovered."

"At the start, it may feel a little difficult to control. However, as long as I completely familiarize myself with the new body, my strength might be even greater than it was in the past." Yao Lao faintly laughed. His voice had a confidence which was difficult to hide. After all, he might not have been able to train his Dou Qi during these years, but Yao Lao's spirit has become much stronger than what it had been in the past.

"What stage would it reach?" Xiao Yan inquired.

"Ke ke, defeating Yun Shan within ten exchanges without needing the slightest effort." Yao Lao smiled as he replied. In his smile, there was the haughtiness that belonged to a strong person at the peak.

Xiao Yan's eyes narrowed slightly and the corner of his mouth curled to form a faint arc. Yun Shan was currently a Dou Zong. Although he was merely a one star Dou Zhong, even a nine star Dou Zong wouldn't dare to say that they could defeat him within ten exchanges. In other words, if Yao Lao were to recover his strength, he would at least be a Dou Zun!

Xiao Yan slowly exhaled the shock from his chest. A Dou Zun. That was someone who could stand at the top position on the golden pagoda of the continent.

Xiao Yan crossed his ten fingers within his sleeves and said softly, "A very attractive increase in strength. I remember that teacher had said before that there was a possibility of there being a kind of 'Heavenly Flame' within the Jia Nan Academy, no? What is that flame called again?"

"Fallen Heart Flame!" Yao Lao smiled and reminded.

"Ke ke, 'Fallen Heart Flame' huh." Xiao Yan nodded his head and smiled as he said, "Looks like I have another mission to complete during this trip of mine to the Jia Nan Academy."

"Since it is like this, let's not continue wasting time in the Jia Ma Empire. If we can leave early, let's not delay any longer, shall we?" Xiao Yan sighed and inquired.

“Wait a moment. The Jia Nan Academy is located at the junction between a couple of large empires. That region is extremely vast. Although the region surrounding Jia Nan Academy is a peaceful region, other than that, it is in a state where things must be opposite when something is pushed to the extreme. That place is so messy that it causes people to suckle their tongues. Countless numbers of factions interlace with each other there. Each time Jia Nan Academy recruits students, there are instructors who escort them. Moreover, once they leave the borders of each country, more escort troops from the academy will come out and increase the protection. Otherwise, the new students can’t truly reach the academy without being hurt.” Yao Lao suddenly said.

“Even after leaving the Jia Ma Empire, you must continue to be completely prepared for anything in order to be able to enter that chaotic region. Otherwise, if you are not careful and are caught in someone’s dirty tricks, you will be somewhat unlucky.”

“When I was looking through your storage ring earlier, I realized that the various types of medicinal pills within it have been more or less exhausted. Even the ‘Energy Recovery Pills’, the kind that one must definitely have prepared, have already been completely exhausted within the Magical Beast Mountain Range this time around. If you do not prepare some beforehand, we will have to tarry a little if we want to refine some to be prepared when something happens in the future.” Yao Lao reminded.

“Uh.” Only upon hearing this did Xiao Yan recall that his originally rich reserve of various kinds of medicinal pills had been used to the point of desolation during this one month of escape.

“Then let’s first go to the auction house to buy some medicinal ingredients. After that, I will go and inquire about the route out of the Jia Ma Empire. At the same time, I can casually ask just how many officials of the empire along this route originate from the Misty Cloud Sect. This will allow us to be more prepared.” Xiao Yan mused for a moment before speaking softly.

“Ah, be careful. Do not expose your identity.” Yao Lao nodded his head only after hearing this. After that, he gradually became silent.

Once Xiao Yan had distinguished the things that he needed to do, he no longer procrastinated. He turned around and walked toward a certain street. He then walked swiftly until the end of the street where an auction house stood. Seeing the sign on top of the auction house, it was clear that this was a branch of the Mite-er clan.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept in all directions as he walked into the auction house. After which, he stopped at a spot where there was a black curtain. The top of the black curtain had the words 'VIP Reception'. He thought quietly for a moment before swaying his hand. A card made of crystal appeared in his palm. This card was the highest grade VIP card of the Primer clan, something that Primer Tengshan had quietly given Xiao Yan back at the capital due to his relationship with Hai Bodong. It was said that this card would allow him to enjoy complete assistance from any branch under the Primer clan.

Xiao Yan held the card in his hand and swiftly walked toward the VIP room.

Around half an hour after Xiao Yan entered the VIP room, the black curtain was rustled once again. The human figure who was completely wrapped in a black robe steadily walked out. The face under the shadows had a satisfied smile hanging on it as he walked directly out of the auction house. At this moment, most of the medicinal ingredients and information that Xiao Yan needed had been successfully obtained. The VIP card which Primer Tengshan had given him was as useful as he had expected.

Xiao Yan did not find a spot in this city to refine all the medicinal pills he needed after completely preparing everything. Instead, he quietly went to the city wall toward the south side of the city and flew out without alerting anyone.

Only after leaving Da Ling City did Xiao Yan find a secluded spot in the forest. He hid within it and began to refine a large amount of medicinal pills. These medicinal pills were things he would use to protect his life in the future.

Chapter 378: Black-Corner Region

Three days later, in a certain hidden forested area outside of Da Ling City, a person dressed in a black robe slowly walked out. He lifted his head to eye the occasional passerby on the main road that hurried past him. After determining the direction of the road, he lifted his head and walked toward the main road that headed south.

The pace at which the black-robed person was not that quick. However, if an attentive person were to observe him, they would be able to discover that each time the footsteps of the black-robed person fell, his body would strangely advance by over one meter. The scene was similar to a small scale teleportation was occurring, appearing extremely strange.

The black-robed person who had come out from the forest was naturally and undoubtedly Xiao Yan who had been hiding within it to refine the medicinal pills which he needed. With the help of Yao Lao during these past three days, the various recovery and healing medicinal pills, which he had exhausted, had once again populated his storage ring. With a sufficient amount of medicinal pills in reserve, Xiao Yan also felt a lot more relieved. On this Dou Qi continent, what kind of person would leave their home to go on an adventure without preparing these restorative medicinal pills? After all, these things were used to save lives.

“This road leads directly to the border. However, there are three important military fortresses along the way. We need not be afraid of the governors of the first two fortresses, but a thirty thousand strong army is said to be stationed at the final fortress. Moreover, the deputy commander there is a former Elder of the Misty Cloud Sect. From what the people at the Primer Auction House said, it appears that he is called Meng Li. His strength is at the Dou Ling class. Since the Misty Cloud Sect’s wanted order has already reached Da Ling City, I think that this Misty Cloud Sect’s former Elder should have also received it by now.” Xiao Yan gently walked at a pace that was neither fast nor slow, while his body was strangely flashing on the main road. In his heart, however, he was repeatedly calculating how to successfully leave the Jia Ma Empire.

“Currently, it is difficult for me to even move an inch within the Jia Ma Empire. I’m afraid that Yun Shan will have guessed that I will flee from the empire. In that case, he would naturally place greater focus on this kind of final checkpoint of the border. It was possible that Meng Li has long since received Yun Shan’s special message. From the looks of it, wanting to easily leave from there might be difficult.” Xiao Yan’s face was completely covered under the shadows. When he thought of the troublesome points, Xiao Yan eyebrows could not help but knit together.

“The city wall of that border fortress is nearly as large as a small mountain. There is definitely a large force of archers who are well versed in riding and shooting within the fortress as well as a special energy sensing barrier. Since it is used to guard the border, it is also likely that the fortress should have the ability to defend against people flying past from the sky. Otherwise, if a war were to break out, would the strong people of the other countries be able to come and go as they pleased? Ah, looks like wanting to pass through the last checkpoint as easily as I passed through Da Ling City might be a little impossible.” Xiao Yan softly sighed as he shook his head, feeling a little vexed.

Within the Jia Ma Empire, there was a military order. Flying was prohibited in the sky near any of the important military fortresses beside the borders. If anyone were discovered, it was likely they would receive a destructive blow from all directions.

“We can only take one step at a time and see how things go. If it really is impossible, then we can only take the risk and forcefully charge past.” Xiao Yan shook his head and ceased imagining different scenarios. Instead, he focused all his attention onto speeding up his journey.

Although the distance from Da Ling City to the Jia Ma Empire’s border was not short, this was merely something small, relatively speaking. If an ordinary person were to walk these few hundred kilometers, one would definitely not be able to reach the border without ten days to half a month’s time. Even with Xiao Yan’s speed and the quiet use of the Purple Cloud Wings to fly for some time along the way, it took him three days to pass through the two fortresses that were along the way.

As Xiao Yan had expected, the absence of any people from the Misty Cloud Sect within the upper echelons of leadership of the two fortresses meant that the wanted order, which was not recognized by the Imperial family, was not placed everywhere as was the case in Da Ling City. The troops that were stationed there also did not pay much attention toward the wanted order. This allowed Xiao Yan to successfully yet narrowly pass through the two fortresses without any danger.

Although he had successfully passed through the two fortresses, Xiao Yan's feelings did not relax one bit because of this. This was because he knew that the most troublesome one was the final, huge fortress which was known as 'Zhen Gui Pass'. As the military fortress at the empire's border with the purpose of frightening the strengths of other countries, it would not be an exaggeration to describe the defence there as dragnet. All of the soldiers who were stationed there truly had bloody and fiery battlefield experiences. They were far from anything like the troops guarding the cities within the empire, whose bodies were hollowed from the luxurious lifestyle, and could not be compared.

This fortress was the last defensive line which would try to hinder Xiao Yan from leaving the Jia Ma Empire!

Only if Xiao Yan were able to charge out from this place would he truly be like a dragon that had swarmed into the open sea or an eagle soaring through the heavens. There would no longer be anything binding him.

Therefore, this time around, it was extremely critical to get through this pass.

Two days after passing through the second fortress, that enormous fortress, that was like a prehistoric, gigantic beast standing at the border of the Jia Ma Empire, finally appeared in Xiao Yan's line of sight.

Xiao Yan stood atop a mountain slope and eyed the nearly endless, large city wall. He once again sensed the orderly drill sound that was faintly being emitted from the city wall and could not resist gently exhaling a breath of air. The force of tens of thousands of soldiers merging and the ferocious force which charged up into the sky would likely not pale in

comparison to the joint formation of the Misty Cloud Sect.

The freedom of a dragon returning to the vast ocean was on the other side of this city wall. However, Xiao Yan was a slightly battered. This huge fortress was like a vicious tiger lying on his path, blocking his final stretch of road.

“Forcefully flying over will not be a reliable method. Looking at it, I can only try and see if I can sneak through with the crowd.” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over the road below where those groups of people with horse carts were coming and going. He hesitated for a moment, stepped back slowly and finally disappeared into the ocean of people.

On the yellow dirt road, a large group which had the size of nearly a hundred people was marching forth at great speed toward the enormous fortress at the edge of their sight. Along the way, they carried along curses that charged to the heavens. From the unified clothes that this group of people wore, it appeared that they belonged to a mercenary company. Having a hundred men in a mercenary company meant it could be considered a mid-sized one within the Jia Ma Empire.

Due to the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ being close to the border, the chaotic atmosphere here was really well liked by certain mercenary company. They did not like to take the secure route of hunting for Magical Beasts and earning money. Instead, they were happy to be the legendary war mercenary company. In other words, it was to help a certain party in a war and reap huge rewards for their assistance from it.

Although this kind of reward was extremely great, the danger level was also very high. After all, in that kind of meat grinder battlefield, a few hundred troops being killed if they were not alert was not something unique.

If one walked a few hundred kilometers east of the fortress and passed through some small countries or tribes, one would be able to enter a special region with was renown throughout the entire continent as the “Black-Corner Region”!

Here, because of its special geography, it was almost the most chaotic

area in all of the continent. Countless strong people from all countries would flee there and construct the most barbarian rules. In addition, besides human, there were countless other races in this region. It could be called a miniature continent with its diversity!

There were no laws binding anyone within the 'Black-Corner Region'. There was was one rule, the law of the jungle!

In other words, it meant that the weak were prey for the strong to consume!

The weak did not have any rights in such a place!

This was an extremely simple region. As long as you wanted to, there would not be anyone stopping you even if you decided to openly rape a woman on the street. Of course, the precondition for this was that you better choose the party that you rape properly. Otherwise, your fate might be relatively miserable. Within the 'Black-Corner Region', a woman may at times be even more terrifying than a man. There was only one reason for this. They managed to survive in this place.

Additionally, the 'Black-Corner Region' could also be called an information exchange point within the continent. Immense amounts of information flowed out of this place everyday. After that, there would be countless amounts of information that would flow from the outside world into it. Ah, putting it more bluntly, if you wanted to be famous and wanted to be renown throughout the continent, the 'Black-Corner Region' could provide you with the fastest shortcut. Of course, the precondition would be that you needed to possess sufficient strength and capital. Otherwise, your life would be lost even before your name could leave this place.

As a chaotic region renown throughout the continent, the 'Black-Corner Region' also matched this reputation. Everyday, there would be strong people dying and everyday, there would be strong people swarming in from outside. This region was filled with death, but was also filled with challenges and temptation. In a place like this, things that were difficult for one to see in the outside world, like high class Qi Methods, Dou Techniques and various kinds of magical armors, medicinal cauldrons,

medicinal ingredients, high tier medicinal, etc., could cause people to see until their eyes were dazed. Moreover, it was rumored that Di class Qi Methods had appeared twice within the auction house of the 'Black-Corner Region'!

Of course, if one wanted to obtain all of these things, one must pay the price. This price may be in gold coins or perhaps an exchange using other things. In summary, there would definitely not be something like a pie falling from the heavens within the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Loving chaos and leaning toward the darkness appeared to be a factor hidden within the human race. Therefore, even though people knew that this region was shrouded by an air of danger, there were still a countless number of people that swarmed wave after wave into this place. Their purpose may be the shortcut to quickly become renown throughout the continent or perhaps to be able to obtain a higher class Qi Method, Dou Technique, or medicinal pills within this chaotic region or perhaps to obtain a great wealth that could only be compared with the heavens. Regardless of the reason, these people who repeated swarmed in injected an unceasing human traffic into this 'Black-Corner Region'.

Oh yes, something which was nearly not mentioned. Perhaps it was because there will definitely be a reverse effect when pushed to the extreme but located in the middle of the 'Black-Corner Region', was the Jia Nan Academy, which was renowned throughout the Dou Qi Continent!

It was just that a certain region surrounding the exterior of the Jia Nan Academy belonged to a peaceful region. Anyone who brought the atmosphere within the 'Black-Corner Region' into this place would become a corpse on a large tree that was located at the boundary line between the Jia Nan Academy and the 'Black-Corner Region' the next day. In so many years, there did not appear to be any exceptions.

It had been rumored that the corpse of two Dou Wangs and one Dou Huang were hung on the large tree, called 'Dead Spirit Tree'...

Chapter 379: Exposed

A large group of humans and horses whizzed past on the the road, kicking up the yellow dust covering the road. Laughter and curses repeatedly resounded along the way.

At the back of the group of humans and horses, there were some people pushing the horse carts and carrying robes. They did not wear the same clothing as those mercenaries in front of them. This was because they were merely some servants responsible for washing clothes, preparing food, and building tents within the Mercenary Company. Among this group of servants, whose faces were covered with dust, a person pushing a cart while wearing a broken hat on his head suddenly looked up. Other than a pair of black colored eyes being clearly visible, the remainder of his dust covered face was nearly completely hidden under some yellow soil. At a glance, he did not appear any different from the servants with wooden expressions beside him.

“It is indeed worthy of being called the fortress which guards the borders. This size really causes one to suckle his tongue. It is far from what the cities within the Jia Ma Empire can compare with.” As he eyed the city wall, which appeared even larger and more imposing as he moved closer, the man suddenly sighed softly. Hearing this voice, this person was actually Xiao Yan. Looking at the situation, it appeared that he planned to rely on this mercenary company and sneak into the final fortress of the empire.

The group grew increasingly nearer to the city wall within the yellow dust. When they were a few hundred meters from the enormous city gate, Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes and watched the sky above the city wall. There appeared to be a faint, shapeless, energy fluctuation there.

“There are indeed energy sensors. It is fortunate that I did not try to forcefully fly over. Otherwise, those invisible energy sensors might have immediately exposed me. With the special crossbow equipment that these kind of military fortresses have been equipped with, I would likely become a target for them to wildly shoot at should I be discovered.” Xiao Yan

frowned slightly. If he were to borrow Yao Lao's strength, an ordinary bow would have difficulty hurting him. However, this kind of rare metal equipment that was specially manufactured would cause him great fear, should he be caught in an unprepared position. After all, Yao Lao's energy could only allow Xiao Yan to unleash strength, but it would not cause his body to be strengthened to the point where it could contend head on with a crossbow. Moreover, as such a large empire, it was difficult for one to believe that there was nothing in this fortress that could deal with a high class strong person. Xiao Yan had heard of those so called 'Air Splitting Three Continuous Crossbows', 'God Fire Bow', 'Soul Piercing Arrow', etc. It was just that these kinds of mysterious equipment were too difficult to create. Therefore, there was only a small number of units equipped with them and Xiao Yan had never had the chance to personally feel the power of them.

As his distance to the city gate grew increasingly close, Xiao Yan's gaze also landed on that towering city gate. When he saw the defenses of the city gate, which could be considered to be extremely fortified, his brows knit tightly together.

When he was around one hundred meters away from the city wall, the quickly moving large group of men and horses finally came to a slow stop. Two men walked out from the front of the crowd of mercenaries. After which, they waved and led the company toward the city gate.

The two men appeared to be the leaders of the mercenary company. Seeing the manner in which the two of them smiled as they conversed with the guards, it appeared that they were quite familiar with one another. It was likely that this was not the first time they had come to the 'Zhen Gui Pass'.

The two of them conversed with the guards for a long while before the hands of the cold-faced guards moved a little, seeming as if something had been shoved into his hands from the leader of the mercenary company. Only then did the latter hesitate a little before nodding. He displayed a hand signal to those behind him. The barricades and other things behind him were moved aside.

“Hu.” Seeing that the guards actually did not search the company, Xiao Yan could not resist heaving a sigh of relief. His tensed up body also became much more relaxed. The perspiration filled hand of his held the handle of the cart tightly as he hurriedly lowered his head, pushed the cart and followed the company as they walked toward the tunnel under the city’s gate.

Just as the group was about to enter into the city gate’s tunnel, however, a cold, stern cry suddenly sounded, frightening the group at the front until they hurriedly came to a stop.

“Who is the one who allowed them to carelessly enter the city?”

As the cry sounded, the sounds of many suits of armor colliding suddenly resounded from the dark, black city entrance. A moment later, dozens of fully-armed, elite soldiers held long lances in their hands and blocked the city’s gate. A young man with a dark and solemn face slowly walked out and glanced at the mercenary company in a dark and cold manner.

“Ke ke, it is young master Meng La. I have not seen you for a few months, but your appearance is really becoming more and more powerful.” Seeing that his company was being blocked, the Company Leader of the mercenary company hurriedly walked out. When he saw the dark and solemn-faced young man, a smile was hurriedly revealed on his face as he spoke in a fawning manner.

“Ba Nu, enough of your nonsense. In the past, letting you pass was not a big matter, but today, I cannot allow you to do so. Father said that anyone who wants to enter the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ must undergo a strict check.” The young man laughed coldly. Immediately, he took out a piece of white-colored, announcement paper and threw it to the guard. He said in an evil manner, “Go and search every one of them once. Kill anyone who looks like the person on the drawing on the spot!”

That guard carefully received the announcement paper, and smiled helplessly toward the company leader called Ba Nu. After which, he waved his hand and the nearly one hundred guards at the city’s gate raised the

long spears in their hands, and began to search the company.

“This is bad.” Xiao Yan’s quietly cursed to himself when the young man had appeared earlier. Unexpectedly, things were really as he had imagined. The Misty Cloud Sect’s wanted order had already been transmitted to the border of the empire.

The guards came searching one at a time from the front of the company. They held the drawing and compared it for a long while before letting them pass. Although these mercenaries were somewhat annoyed by their actions, they did not dare to behave atrociously here. They knew full well that if they were to anger this young man, their mercenary company would likely not even be able to leave the city. Should those tens of thousands of soldiers charge at them, even a strong Dou Wang would have to temporarily take shelter. Only a few strong people were like those legendary people who could contend against ten thousand people by himself.

That young man called Meng La, had his hands supported behind him. His eyes were so cold that they were like poisonous snakes. His footsteps crossed one after the other as he slowly followed the company and walked down. Suddenly, his footsteps came to a stop. His gaze swept over the servants, whose bodies were emitting a musty smell and whose faces were covered in yellow dirt. In a cold voice, he said, “Clean your faces!”

“This young man’s scheming is quite deep and doesn’t have the slightest haughtiness that those young masters within the empire have.” Seeing that Meng La was actually unconcerned about his own status and directly came to the side of these low-status servants, Xiao Yan could not resist frowning. In his heart, he felt that things were very troublesome. If they were to continue checking in this manner, he would sooner or later be exposed. The result for being exposed in such a place was not good.

Hearing Meng La’s cry, those servants with stiff expressions hurriedly lowered their heads timidly. After which, they used their sleeves and quickly wiped off the yellow grime which masked their faces.

Meng La’s dark, cold gaze slowly swept across the faces of those

servants. A moment later, he shook his head with some disappointment. He was just about to withdraw his gaze, when his eyes suddenly stilled. He tilted his head slightly and stared at a gray-robed servant at the back of the group of people. In a cold voice, he said, "You, lift your head."

Upon hearing his cry, the people surrounding the city gate threw their gazes over. The mercenaries also turned their stunned gazes toward this servant of lowly status.

The gray-robed servant sighed gently, and could only raise his head. The face whose features were covered by the yellow soil revealed a pair of dark, black indifferent pupils like the night.

Meng La's gaze came into contact with those dark black pupils. He was initially startled. The black-colored eyes that were drawn within the drawing surfaced within his mind in a lightning-like manner. His expression changed immediately. The fights to death in battlefields throughout the years had endowed him with keen senses. Therefore, as a seemingly conditional reflex, his toes came into contact with the ground and his body shot backward. While his body shot back, a sharp, ear-piercing sound shouted from his throat, "Catch him! He is Xiao Yan!"

His reaction may have been extremely keen, but his strength was after all merely at the Dou Shi class. Therefore, when his body had just pulled back, Xiao Yan let out a cold laughter. His body swayed slightly and caught up to Meng La in a ghost-like manner. His hand was like an eagle claw which shot out explosively with speed like lightning and heavily smashed into the latter's chest. Immediately, a mouthful of fresh blood was spat out from Meng La's throat. His face had turned a ghastly white.

Failing to take Meng La's life in one blow, Xiao Yan was just about to pounce forward when Meng La hurriedly flashed his body and went behind the back of the soldiers. It was really not normal for a Dou Shi to have such an agile body.

"Chi, chi."

Over ten, sharp, long spears that carried the faint glow of Dou Qi viciously pierced toward Xiao Yan's head. The routes of the spears were

deadly and were filled with killing aura. They were indeed worthy of being soldiers who had lived on the battlefield. Just this pressure and coordination alone was something that ordinary soldiers could not compare with.

Xiao Yan twisted his head. Although he had dodged the long spears, Xiao Yan's attack was also blocked. As he saw those soldiers gathering together hurriedly, he could only knit his brows together and pulled back quite some distance.

Outside the city gate, everyone were staring at this split second change with stunned faces. This was especially when they saw that Meng La, who was called the most outstanding person among the younger generation at 'Gui Meng Pass', being seriously wounded in one strike. The expressions on their faces became slightly sluggish after that.

"Xiao Yan? He is that Xiao Yan? That Xiao Yan who killed Yun Leng from the Misty Cloud Sect who was a Dou Wang?" Suddenly, there was someone from within the mercenary company who abruptly shouted out loud. Immediately, numerous fiery eyes were brought up. Hearing the voice, it did not appear to have too much greed. Instead, it contained a taste of worship.

As the shout from this mercenary fell, the surroundings immediately turned into an uproar. Numerous gazes that contained various different emotions stared intently at Xiao Yan. The thing that shook the Jia Ma Empire recently was naturally and undoubtedly the matter of Xiao Yan charging up against the Misty Cloud Sect. Following the issue of the wanted order from the Misty Cloud Sect, almost every citizen in the Jia Ma Empire knew that whoever was able to provide information regarding Xiao Yan to the Misty Cloud Sect would be able to obtain a Xuan Class Qi Method to practice Dou Qi. A Qi Method of this class was equivalent to hundreds of thousands of gold coins on the market. Moreover, it was a situation where there was a demand for it, but a lack of supply to meet that demand.

This generous reward was sufficient enough for many people to risk their lives.

“Xiao Yan, this ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ has tens of thousands of armed soldiers. You will never be able to escape!” Meng La’s expression swelled purple as he glanced at Xiao Yan in a vicious manner. His voice was hoarse as he spoke.

“Young Master Meng La, I want to know something. These soldiers at the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ clearly belongs to the officials of the empire. When had it become a dog to help work for the Misty Cloud Sect? I think that if this matter was to be sent to the Jia Ma Empire’s Imperial family, I’m afraid that even your father would be severely punished, no?” Xiao Yan wiped the yellow dirt off of his face. His gaze swept over the hundreds of elite soldiers who were blocking the city gate as he coldly laughed.

Upon hearing Xiao Yan’s cold laughter, the soldiers were also startled. Immediately, they became a little hesitant. According to procedures, they were indeed soldiers belonging to the Jia Ma Empire, and had nothing to do with the Misty Cloud Sect. That wanted order was not recognized by the officials. Putting it this way, capturing Xiao Yan was basically something illegal.

“Ke ke, what a sharp-tongued young man!” Just when the soldiers were hesitating, a dark and cold laughter suddenly sounded from within the tunnel behind the city gate. Immediately, a middle-aged man wearing silver armor strode out. His gaze coldly swept over Xiao Yan and cried out, “I am the deputy commander of the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’, Meng Li. You have trespassed into an important city. According to our empire’s law, you should be arrested. I advise you to allow yourself to be arrested without a fight to avoid bringing pain to yourself.”

“You are Meng Li? That dog of the Misty Cloud Sect?” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over Meng Li’s body and sensed the faint breath that was coming from his body. He muttered in his heart, “Seeing his Qi, he should be around a two or three star Dou Ling.”

“Take him down!” Meng Li’s expression was slightly dark and solemn as he let out a thick laugh. He ceased speaking any nonsense and cried out directly.

Upon hearing Meng Li's order, a few hundred fully armed elite soldiers came swarming out from within the dark black tunnel under the city wall once again. After which, they surrounded Xiao Yan layer upon layer. The long, sharp lances in their hands were flashing with a thick and cold luster as the sunlight reflected off of them.

"Since sneaking in has failed, I can only forcefully charge through."

The killing aura that shot up to the heavens from the surroundings caused Xiao Yan's expression to gradually become cold. He moved both his hands and an enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler flashed and appeared. He waved the heavy ruler and it made a 'hu hu' wind sound.

"Kill!"

As he eyed Xiao Yan, who had drawn his weapon, Meng Li laughed coldly. A few days ago, he had received Yun Shan's message. According to what the latter had told him, the current Xiao Yan was injured in the big fight at the Misty Cloud Sect and could no longer display the terrifying strength he had used to fight with Yun Shan. It was only due to this that Meng Li dared to agree to this killing order. Otherwise, even if he was given a couple more levels of courage, he would not dare to block Xiao Yan, even in his prime condition. After all, a strong person who could fight with a Dou Zong was not someone that could be held back even by using all of the warriors within this fortress.

"Everyone stop!"

Just as those warriors, whose entire bodies were filled with a bloody aura, were about to begin the charge to kill, a stern cry suddenly sounded explosively. Immediately, a shadow descended from the sky like an iron pagoda and heavily smashed into the ground. He shook the entire ground until it swayed. His gaze swept across his surroundings and finally stopped on Meng Li's body. He laughed coldly, "Meng Li, my 'Silver Armor Army' are not people under the Misty Cloud Sect. If you want to curry favor with the Misty Cloud Sect, take action yourself. Do not have the delusion that you can use my people to act as stepping stones for yourself."

"Mu Tie, you..." Seeing burly, large man who had appeared, Meng Li's

expression immediately became green as he angrily cried out.

“Hmph, ‘Silver Armor Army’, withdraw!” Ignoring him, that burly man who was called Mu Tie turned around, and cried toward the elite warriors who had surrounded Xiao Yan in their midst.

“Yes, Lord Commander!” Those warriors did not have the slightest hesitation when they heard his order. They emitted a ‘shua’ sound, and stored their lances. Their voices were so orderly that there was not the slightest echo. They then quietly pulled back into the tunnel of the city gate and did not move, just like wooden pillars. Seeing the action of these warriors, it was clear that this person called Mu Tie had a reputation that far exceeded Meng Li’s.

“You are called Xiao Yan, right? Ha ha, little fellow, you have courage. In so many years, you are the first person to embarrass the Misty Cloud Sect in such a manner. If I were not dictated by my status, I would invite you to have a few drinks with me.” The large man, who was like an iron pagoda, laughed out loudly toward Xiao Yan. His laughter was like thunder.

“Thank you, Commander Mu Tie.” The situation, which had suddenly turned for the better, caused Xiao Yan to be startled. When he saw that Mu Tie’s face did not appear to have any malice, he immediately smiled and replied courteously.

“You need not thank me. This is just within my job scope. If the Misty Cloud Sect’s wanted order was recognized by the officials, then and only then can I capture you. However, it is fortunate...” Mu Tie waved his hand. He glanced at the green faced Meng Li and smiled as he said, “As long as you can escape from this fellow’s hands, there will no longer be anyone in this ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ who will stop you.”

“Thank you very much for this.” A dense expression involuntarily appeared on Xiao Yan’s face as he heard this. He turned his head and eyed Meng Li before saying softly, “Deputy Commander Meng Li, if you want to take my head to get a reward from the Misty Cloud Sect, come and attack me by yourself.”

“Little bastard, how arrogant. Today, I don’t believe that I cannot settle

this injured body of yours!”

Meng Li's face was alternating between green and white. He did not think that he would actually loop himself into the matter. Honestly speaking, in his heart, he was a little afraid of the tactics that Xiao Yan used. After all, even a strong person like Yun Leng had died by Xiao Yan's hands. If he were to soften at this kind of moment, it was likely that his reputation within the 'Zhen Gui Pass' would drop all the way to the bottom of the valley. Therefore, even though he felt uncertain in his heart, he could only harden the skin on his head and step forward.

Chapter 380: Leaving The Jia Ma Empire!

A dense group of people were gathered at the city's gate. Numerous gazes that contained some expectation or curiosity were locked on the two people who stood in an empty area. During this period of time, Xiao Yan's name was nearly known by everyone within the Jia Ma Empire. Many people had merely heard of this legendary person who had dared to contend with the entire Misty Cloud Sect with his own strength. All of the faces of those present were now filled with anticipation. Now that they were lucky enough to witness him fighting with their own eyes, they wanted to know if the rumors that were running rampant were true or not. Did this young man, who was not even twenty years old, actually possess the strength to kill a Dou Wang?

Mu Tie's hands were crossed in front of his chest, much like a black-colored iron pagoda. He stood quietly, but emitted a powerful and stern Qi despite not being angry, pressuring people to the point where the skin on their heads became numb. From the Qi which he inevitably emitted, his strength clearly far exceeded Meng Li's. According to Xiao Yan's guess, this middle-aged, large man might have already reached the peak of the Dou Ling class. With his age, even with quite good training talent, this was something that would cause one to suckle their tongue. Of course, the reason for this was partly because of him being in bloody battles all year round. The life and death battles on the battlefield were always the training holy ground that could hasten one's growth rate.

The current Mu Tie also stared at Xiao Yan, who had drawn the huge black ruler, with some interest. This extremely special weapon had become a sign of this young man. Due to this, there were even some young men within the Jia Ma Empire who had begun to fashionably use this type of weapon. Of course, with Mu Tie's eyes, he would naturally not think that the rulers of those imitators would be able to compare with this strange black ruler of Xiao Yan's. This was because when the ruler had appeared earlier, Mu Tie had sensed that Xiao Yan's body had actually sunk slightly. Clearly, the weight of this ruler could not be underestimated.

“Since Deputy Commander Meng Li plans to personally take action, it is only natural that you all would need to listen to me. As the highest commander of the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’, my rules are law when you are competing in my territory.” He glanced at Meng Li who had drawn a blood-red, large knife from his storage ring and smiled. His feet abruptly stepped on the ground and two crack lines began to immediately spread out from his feet. Finally, it swiftly agglomerated into a large circle. The circle coincidentally encompassed Xiao Yan within it. “Both of your strengths are not weak. I am afraid that you will cause some damage to the surrounding area, which would be a little troublesome. After all, repairing things also requires quite a bit of money. This circle shall be the boundary. Whoever is forced out of this circle loses. However, I will remind you both some things first. This is not some life and death contest, therefore, there is no need to fight until the other person is dead. Otherwise, if Deputy Commander Meng Li were to be unfortunately crippled off by Xiao Yan, where would I go and find another deputy on such short notice? Ha ha.”

The corner of Meng Li’s mouth twitched slightly when he heard Mu Tie’s laughter, which hid a ridiculing tone. He also knew that within this ‘Zhen Gui Pass’, he and Mu Tie were basically like fire and water which could not merge. However, he did not expect that the latter would actually not give him any face in public.

“Hmph.” Meng Li snorted coldly. His gaze was dark and cold as it turned to Xiao Yan. The bloody-red, large knife shook slightly and a dark yellow Dou Qi swiftly wrapped it. Immediately, the faint scent of blood permeated out from the blade.

Seeing that his provocation did not even cause Meng Li to be the slightest bit angry, Mu Tie simply smiled as if he were pleased and said, “However, Xiao Yan, you should not be careless. Deputy Commander Meng Li practices a Xuan Class Low Level ground affinity Qi Method. Moreover, his ‘Blood Killer Knife’ Dou Technique, which is also of the Xuan Class Low Level, is something that even I have to treat seriously.”

“Mu Tie, you’re going overboard!” Hearing Mu Tie actually revealing all

his skills in just two to three sentences, Meng Li's expression instantly became green as he spoke furiously.

"Ha ha, alright. I shall say no more." Mu Tie smiled and nodded. He shrugged his shoulders at Xiao Yan and waved his hand instantly. In a faint voice, he said, "Begin."

Xiao Yan exhaled a deep breath. He held the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler and focused on Meng Li opposite him, whose face was filled with killing intent. He was about to strike when Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded from within his heart, "Allow me. Don't waste any more time. Leave the Jia Ma Empire as soon as possible to avoid having even more problems appearing."

"Uh, alright."

Xiao Yan helplessly shrugged his shoulders. He could only forget about the thought of taking the opportunity to try using the 'Skyfire Three Mysterious Change'. Under the strange gazes of the people around him, he slowly closed his eyes.

"Hee hee, what a wildly arrogant fellow."

When he saw this stance of Xiao Yan, Meng Li immediately became furious. Given his status, when had he ever been looked down upon in such a manner? At that instant, yellow sand began to surge around the city gate. The ferocious presence that rose from within the yellow sand caused the surrounding mercenaries, who were observing, to hurriedly take a few steps back. Their faces were immediately filled with envy. Dou Ling class. This was a level that countless numbers of people could only dream of.

The yellow sand gradually disappeared and Meng Li, whose entire body was wrapped in a layer of yellow-colored Dou Qi Armor, appeared in everyone's sight. A sharp blade-shaped projection shot out from the blood-colored large knife in his hand, leaving a deep scar in the ground.

The bloody knife in his hand was moistened by Dou Qi and grew increasingly brighter. Meng Li's eyes stared intently at Xiao Yan, who had his eyes closed. His body was quiet for an instant before a sudden, stern

cry broke the surrounding quiet atmosphere. His feet stepped on the ground and his body was like a cannon ball, which appeared in front of Xiao Yan in a couple of flashes. The bloody knife in his hand carried a precise, bloody, killing aura as it directly hacked downward, as though he was splitting the ground.

“The bloody knife Dou Technique of this fellow has become increasingly close to the pinnacle. Judging by the force and the power, even an ordinary four star Dou Ling would have difficulty receiving it.” Mu Tie could not resist frowning slightly as he sensed the extreme pressure of the knife’s force that was bearing down. His gaze immediately turned toward Xiao Yan, whose eyes were still closed as though he did not hear anything. He muttered, “What is this fellow doing? From my observation, his breath appears to be only around that of a Da Dou Shi? Don’t tell me this is his true strength?”

Xiao Yan slowly opened his eyes as the sharp, rushing noise of wind made it’s presence known above his head. At that instant, a green and a white-colored flame strangely rose and flashed within his dark, black eyes.

Meng Li’s face, which was filled with killing intent, became dull as his gaze swept over Xiao Yan’s strange pair of eyes. However, the bloody knife in his hand did not have any hesitation as it viciously hacked at Xiao Yan’s head.

“Clang!”

Xiao Yan’s hand was lifted gently. The huge Heavy Xuan Ruler suddenly moved upward and collided with that bloody knife which contained a ferocious force. Immediately, sparks flew and an energy ripple that was visible to the naked eye was emitted from where the two weapons made contact, lifting a yellow-colored sand wave from the ground.

Xiao Yan held the Heavy Xuan Ruler with one hand, while Meng Li’s bloody knife was firmly pressed against the body of the ruler. However, regardless of how flushed Meng Li’s face became and how much force he added, that ruler appeared to have solidified in midair and did not move by even a little.

The flushed face of Meng Li, who was breathing rapidly, was almost too extreme when compared with the calmed face Xiao Yan, whose breathing did not even have the slightest chaos.

“Tsk, what a strong strength and it appears to have suddenly surged out from within his body. This method of Xiao Yan to hide his strength is really very unique. Just looking at his Qi, anyone would only treat him as a Da Dou Shi.” Mu Tie’s brows twitched involuntarily when he saw the tranquil and orderly Xiao Yan as he praised.

The surrounding mercenaries and soldiers around the city’s gate were somewhat stunned as they saw Xiao Yan blocking Meng Li’s ferocious attack with a careless block. It should be known that Meng Li’s strength may not be considered the peak in the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’, but it could be considered ranking among the top five. Usually, when he met bandits, that bloody knife would chop off an unknown number of arrogant and despotic bandit heads. However, today, this bloody knife, which was never at a disadvantage, was actually blocked by a young man in such a steady manner.

“Get lost. With this little bit of strength, you still want to come out and show your inadequacies?”

Xiao Yan slowly raised his head. Two different colored flames gently danced within his eyes. A cold smile curled up from the corner of his mouth. His right hand moved as though it was passing through flowers to pick a leaf as it pressed against Meng Li’s chest in a lightning-like manner. His palm was slightly curled and a force suddenly spat out.

“Glug.”

Meng Li’s chest felt like it was being smashed by a five hundred kilograms rock. He immediately and wildly spat out a mouthful of fresh blood as his body flew backward. Finally, he smashed heavily against the city wall. After this, he fell down under everyone’s dull gazes. Immediately, he spat out another mouthful of fresh blood. His body was curled up like a pupa. The Dou Qi Armor on his body had shattered into pieces by a single blow.

Meng Li's hand wiped the blood stain from the corner of his mouth. His face had a painful, bitter expression of disbelief. "Didn't old Sect Leader say that this fellow's strength had greatly declined? Why is he still so strong?"

Silence!

Everyone at the city's gate fell into silence as they eyed Meng Li, who was struck out of the circular boundary with a single strike. It was a long while later before there was someone who softly moaned. A strong person of the Dou Ling class ended up losing and directly vomiting blood after merely one exchange. This young man who did not appear to even be twenty years old was actually this terrifying?

At this moment, those people, whose hearts were originally tempted by the generous reward for capturing Xiao Yan, instantly gave up any hope of successfully doing so. Seeing the vicious means of the latter earlier, it was likely that the rumor of him killing Elder Yun Leng was true. A person who could kill a strong person of the Dou Wang class. Even if these mercenary company was to unite all their strength, it was likely that it would still not be enough to deal with a few swings of his blade.

"Hu. He is indeed very strong. No wonder the Clan Head sent a letter over to tell me to take the opportunity to sell a favor to Xiao Yan if there was a chance to do so. This strength is worth the price!" Mu Tie slowly exhaled a breath of air. He eyed Xiao Yan who stood still after withdrawing his palm and could not resist muttering within his heart.

Xiao Yan turned his head and the green and white-colored flames in his eyes swiftly disappeared. Just as he had obtained control of his body, Yao Lao's voice suddenly sounded from his heart, "Xiao Yan, leave here quickly. Don't delay any longer! Hurry!"

Xiao Yan was initially startled when he heard Yao Lao's voice. His face immediately changed involuntarily and his heart also suddenly became rapid. From Yao Lao's words, he managed to distinguish a little panic?

Xiao Yan's throat rolled slightly. Some cold sweat surfaced on his forehead. The thought in his heart rolled rapidly. Back then, even when

faced with the Dou Zong Yun Shan, Yao Lao did not appear to be even the slightest bit afraid. Why did he actually display such emotion within his heart now? Just what was it?

Xiao Yan's mouth suddenly felt a little dry. He did not dare to ask anything more. The heavy ruler in his hand was swiftly stored in his storage ring as he turned toward Mu Tie and asked, "Chief Commander Mu Tie, may I know if I can leave now?"

"Ke ke, of course. I have already said that as long as you are able to defeat Meng Li, you are allowed to enter and leave this 'Zhen Gui Pass'." Mu Tie laughed out loud.

"Thank you very much."

Xiao Yan laughed softly. Immediately, he walked directly toward the city while being watched by hundreds of people around him. When he was about to enter the dark, black tunnel, his footsteps suddenly paused.

Being the focus of attention of this place at this moment, the private whispers around him immediately became quiet when Xiao Yan paused his footsteps. Numerous heated gazes stared at the young man's skinny figure. The eyes of some of the women were even filled with a worshipful adoration that left people speechless.

"Commander Mu Tie, I will repay this favor to the Mu Clan in the future." Xiao Yan tilted his head toward the slightly stunned Mu Tie and said in a deep voice.

Mu Tie was blank for a moment before smiling. One really had peace of mind when conversing with an intelligent person.

"Additionally, Deputy Commander Meng Li..."

Xiao Yan's gaze turned toward the bright red face of Meng Li, who was being supported by Meng La. Xiao Yan's gaze then slowly swept across the few hundred people at the city gate. He was quiet for a moment before he suddenly turned around. His body disappeared into the darkness in a calm, free, and easy manner. That faint voice of his, however, was quietly being emitted.

“Help me inform Yun Shan. Within two years or at the very most five years, I, Xiao Yan will return. When that time comes, tell him to wash his neck. I, Xiao Yan, will personally take his life to end today’s grudge!”

When everyone at the city gate heard the faint voice that was slowly transmitted out, even Mu Tie’s face involuntarily turned completely expressionless.

Asking a strong Dou Zong to wash his neck. This young man was likely the first person to ever have such pride and confidence within the Jia Ma Empire!

Chapter 381: Mysterious Faction, Hall of Souls?

A grey-robed young man slowly walked out from the western city gate of the 'Zhen Gui Pass'. He stood outside the moat and lifted his eyes to gaze at the mountain ranges in the distance. After which, he turned his head and took a final look at this border city of the Jia Ma Empire. Once he walked away from here, he would truly be able to roam freely throughout the high skies and vast seas. The world outside would definitely be even more interesting than this empire.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air. Finally, he ceased feeling nostalgic and strode into the distance. His skinny back slowly faded away at the edge of the main road.

Around half an hour after the grey-robed young man disappeared, some black air strangely and suddenly appeared in the sky above the 'Zhen Gui Pass'. The black air lingered in the sky as if it was possessed by a spirit, much like a ghost.

For some time, the black air moved back and forth in the sky above the 'Zhen Gui Pass' where Xiao Yan had fought earlier. Suddenly, it was swept up by the wind as it headed in the same direction that Xiao Yan had walked. Along the way, it left a black trace that was partially visible.

It was completely silent on the main road which was situated between lush green woods. There was only the soft chirping of the birds sitting on the tree branches, adding some life to this empty road.

"Teacher, earlier you...?" After quietly walking for a long time, Xiao Yan finally could not resist the doubt within his heart as he asked softly.

Two minutes after Xiao Yan spoke a soft sigh could be heard. Yao Lao bitterly laughed as he muttered, "Ah, it is really unexpected that these fellows are present near the Jia Ma Empire. They seldom come here. Why is it that this time..."

Yao Lao softly muttering to himself resulted in Xiao Yan becoming

totally confused. He immediately asked carefully, “Teacher, who are those people that you are referring to as ‘those fellows’?”

Upon hearing Xiao Yan’s question, Yao Lao fell into silence. Xiao Yan was startled when he saw the manner in which Yao Lao behaved and did not continue pursuing the matter. His brows furrowed slightly as he continued to follow the direction of the map, walking along this road that led to the ‘Black-Corner Region’. However, he began to feel somewhat uneasy in his heart.

“Little fellow, I had originally planned to tell you about these things once you had become stronger. Now, however, my trace has unexpectedly been discovered by them. My original plan is also ruined. If you want to know about this matter, I can only tell you now earlier than I anticipated.” Yao Lao, who had been silent for a long time suddenly opened his mouth and said, “However, I have to warn you beforehand that the faction involved in this matter is really too strong. It is far from what a sect like the Misty Cloud Sect can compare with. Even I feel that the matter is very difficult. Are you currently certain that you want to know?”

Xiao Yan’s hand trembled involuntarily. His throat rolled slowly as he swallowed a mouthful of saliva. His moving footsteps also paused as he quietly stood in the same spot. He had a premonition that the matter which Yao Lao would soon mention would likely cause the steady and peaceful days that he had experienced in the past to instantly disappear.

Following Xiao Yan’s silence, Yao Lao also ceased to speak. However, Xiao Yan faintly sensed a disappointment being emitted from the ring on his finger.

After being silent for nearly five to six minutes, Xiao Yan suddenly exhaled a long breath of air. He lifted his head and he gazed past the gaps between the tree leaves and eyed the deep blue sky. His finger rubbed the black colored ring as he said in a soft gentle voice, “Tell me, teacher. Although I do not know just how strong the faction involved in this matter is, I just want to say one thing. I am your disciple. All these abilities of mine were given to me by you.”

“Ha ha, good, good! These eyes of mine, Yao Chen, have not been blinded for the second time! Ha ha!”

After Xiao Yan’s voice fell, Yao Lao descended into silence. A while later, he repeatedly said the word ‘good’ twice. A voice which was trembling intensely sounded in his heart. As his mood was agitated, he had spoken the name which had once shaken the entire Dou Qi continent in front of Xiao Yan for the first time!

Xiao Yan’s words were calm and unexcited, the same words that had come from his heart had caused the usually calm and indifferent Yao Lao to become so emotional that his old tears were allowed to roam. He had experienced being betrayed by the person whom he had trusted the most. That kind of pain was basically a kind that seeped into one’s bones. However, it was fortunate that this time around, his eyes, which had miscalculated once, did not repeat the same mistake!

“Yao Chen. Was this once teacher’s name?” Xiao Yan repeated the foreign name within his mind. His focus, however, was paused on another sentence. “Has not been blind for a second time. In other words, he was blind once. Ah, looks like teacher’s past was quite rough.”

“Little fellow, I have told you in the past that the Dou Qi continent was very big. Within it, strong people are as numerous as the clouds. Even the person who is considered the strongest within the Jia Ma Empire, Yun Shan, would have no choice but to rid himself of his haughtiness when he enters the continent. This is because, there are many people within it who are many times stronger than him.” Yao Lao’s slow tone contained some desolation, attracting Xiao Yan’s attention until the latter did not dare to be the slightest bit distracted.

“Due to this enormous area, there were many strange factions that had been formed. Among them, there was a mysterious faction named the ‘Hall of Souls’. Although this faction nearly covers half of the continent, they seldom appear in countries that are far from the center of the continent like the Jia Ma Empire. There are not many people on this continent who know of their existence.”

“Hall of Souls?” Xiao Yan muttered this name before he spoke softly, “Earlier, teacher must have sensed traces of them at the ‘Zhen Gui Pass’ right?”

“Ah.” Yao Lao smiled bitterly and nodded as he said, “This ‘Hall of Souls’ is extremely powerful and mysterious. Moreover, the methods they employ in their operations are extremely strange. Even I do not have a deep understanding of them. However, they usually do not attack ordinary people. Their targets are the ‘Living Spirits’, whose bodies have died, but whose spirits are unusually strong. As an alchemist, you should also know that when the spirit’s strength has reached a certain limit, the spirit will still be able to survive even if the body is destroyed in order to find any opportunity to be revived. For these kind of spirits, we call them: ‘Living Spirits’!”

“That is something like what Teacher is in, right?” Xiao Yan pursed his lips and asked softly.

“Yes.” Yao Lao gave a positive response. His voice immediately and suddenly had some additional fury and gloominess within it, “They are like this continent’s spirit scavengers. Any strong spirit which has left their bodies will be sensed by them. After which, they will send someone to mysteriously finish it off. I don’t know why they specialize in attacking spiritual bodies but they appear to have some special restraining tactics toward spirit. Back then, not long after my physical body was destroyed, I was surrounded and attacked by them. Although I did finally successfully kill my way out, I was also seriously wounded because of it. It was fortunate, however, that I had luckily obtained an extremely rare ‘Warm Soul Spirit Ring’ when I was helping other people refine medicinal pills back then. In the end, I got someone to help me create the black-colored ring on your finger. It was because of this that I managed to escape being killed by them. Finally, the ring went in circles and landed in your mother’s hands before finally being passed on to you.”

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of cool air. Even with Yao Lao’s strength, he was chased until he had to flee in all directions. Just how strong was that mysterious ‘Hall of Souls’?

“The ‘Hall of Souls’ has a special tactic to deal with spirits. Therefore, even I had difficulty just relying on my spirit to fight with them.” Yao Lao said in a soft deep voice, “The reason why I want to quickly revive is actually because I am afraid of them. Moreover, I also have some matters and grudges that I must investigate fully and settle!”

Xiao Yan quietly nodded his head.

“Little fellow, you need not think of how to help me. The current you is far too weak. What I am optimistic about is your potential. As long as you are given enough time, you will definitely become a true strong person at the peak. It is just that you must become stronger now! Otherwise, once those fellows come searching, I’m afraid that even your life will be in danger!” Yao Lao slowly said.

Xiao Yan’s face gradually became serious. He tightened his fist and replied in a deep voice, “Teacher, I will obtain the ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ as soon as possible. After which, I will help you refine a body so that you are no longer threatened by the ‘Hall of Souls’.”

“Ah, I can only rely on you.” Yao Lao sighed and immediately voiced his thoughts, “It is fortunate that I had withdrawn into the ring very quickly earlier. Otherwise, I’m afraid that they would have locked onto our position. However, now that they have sensed something, I think that this place will gradually have an increase in members from the ‘Hall of Souls’. Therefore, there may be many problems in the future in which you will have to rely on yourself. Otherwise, once I appear once and they lock onto me, our lives will both be in danger.”

“Ah.” Xiao Yan nodded his head heavily. His relaxed heart from having left the Jia Ma Empire earlier had abruptly tightened. Although there was currently no threat from the Misty Cloud Sect, an even more terrifying large being had appeared. He had no choice but to handle it with caution. Moreover, it was just as Yao Lao had said. The current him was really too weak. With his little bit of strength, forget about protecting Yao Lao from being captured by the ‘Hall of Souls’, even the Misty Cloud Sect was able to expel him like a dog which had lost its home.

“Without strength, one will end up being powerless and unable to do anything.” Xiao Yan sighed gently as he tightened his fist. At this moment, he once again felt the same powerlessness and yearning for strength, like he had when facing Nalan Yanran in the hall of the Xiao clan’s home three years ago!

“Strength! I need strength!”

Xiao Yan roared violently in his heart. Under the pressure of the mysterious ‘Hall of Souls’, Xiao Yan told himself that his current most pressing need was strength.

“Since it is like this, let’s directly fly to the Jia Nan Academy. We cannot continue to make short stops along the way.” A map was pulled out from within the storage ring. Xiao Yan carefully observed it for a moment as his finger traced the red line on it. Finally, it stopped at a large, dark patch on the map. Finally, his finger passed through the black region and stopped at a blue-colored star in the center of it.

Xiao Yan’s shoulders trembled slightly and the Purple Cloud Wings rose slowly from his back. He flapped the wings, and his body rose into the air. After he found his bearings, he finally turned into a ray of light and disappeared into the western horizon.

Following Xiao Yan’s disappearance, the region once again descended into silence. Around two to three hours later, a wisp of black-colored fog suddenly flew over from the distant sky. Finally, it lingered over the region where Xiao Yan had stopped. A low, doubtful sound was emitted from the black fog. It hesitated for a moment before finally flying in the direction Xiao Yan had headed in.

Chapter 382: Jia Nan Academy, the Xiao clan has a Female Maturing Early

The Jia Nan Academy was an ancient academy that was seated in the middle of the continent. In the past thousands of years, the strongest people who walked out of here were all people who were extremely well known on the continent, and just their names could shake an entire region.

The most terrifying thing of an academy was not how great the strength of its teachers were, but the tens of thousands of strong people that had walked out of this academy. If the Jia Nan Academy was in danger of being destroyed one day, all the academy had to do was gather all those strong people who had graduated from the academy. It would be difficult to imagine just how terrifying this strength would be.

Although the number of different academies on the continent was difficult to count, the reputation of Jia Nan Academy was something that had never been surpassed even now. From this, one could see just how solid the heritage of this academy, which was shrouded by an age-tested aura, was.

On the continent, countless numbers of people, regardless of race, would be proud of being able to enter this ancient academy. Unfortunately, the extremely harsh requirements the academy had when recruiting new students caused many to bemoan their inadequacy.

On the peak of the mountain behind the academy, where the trees were lush, a young lady wearing a pale-green dress was standing prettily. There was a purple belt tied around her small, pretty waist, outlining the waist until it was extremely alluring.

She was facing the vast, white fog at the back of the peak of the mountain. Her long, soft, black hair moved along her shoulders as it fell to her narrow waist. Only then did it cease to extend further.

The young lady stood with her hands together. Her tall figure was like a

green lotus blooming in the mortal world against a background of faint white fog slowly surrounding her, where it appeared otherworldly with a unique aura.

This kind of lady was like someone being bred by the aura of the land and the sky, appearing so outstanding that it caused people to be put into a trance.

“Ding Ling.”

A clear and ethereal chime suddenly sounded on this quiet mountain peak. If one were to examine closely, they would realize that there were two, tiny green-colored bells hanging on that white waist of the green clad young lady.

Following the chiming of the bells, a shadow suddenly appeared at a certain spot behind the young lady. Immediately, an old figure surfaced. The old man bowed respectfully toward the young lady and smiled as he said, “Young Miss (xiao-jie).”

“Old Ling, you have finally returned.” The young lady slowly turned around. Her elegant and exquisite ethereal face suddenly smiled. Immediately, the flowers paled. All the colors within the forest had drained away and completely gathered on her body, causing people’s sight to have difficulty moving away.

“Ke ke, I have no choice. Since Young Miss (xiao-jie) has given me an assignment, won’t I be blamed by Young Miss (xiao-jie) until I die if the old me ran back without completing my assignment?” The old man lifted his head and smiled as he replied. That old man’s face was shockingly the Ling Ying who had taken action to help Xiao Yan escape from the Misty Cloud Sect!

The young lady smiled with her mouth closed. In her mind, she recalled the young man who had caused her so much worry. Her clear, cold voice slowly became much softer. She glanced at Ling Ying, and an embarrassed red glow, which would have caused the entire Jia Nan Academy to go crazy over, immediately surfaced on her face. She said gently, “Old Ling, how is he?”

“Young Miss is talking about Young Master Xiao Yan, right?” Ling Ying replied by asking a rhetorical question. When he saw the bright redness on the young lady’s face becoming increasingly dense, he could not resist laughing out loud. It appeared that only that little fellow called Xiao Yan had the blessing and charm to cause the otherworldly temperament of the Young Miss, who was usually as indifferent as a lotus, to change into an ordinary girl.

“Before I left, Young Master Xiao Yan did not have any problems. The Three Year Agreement between him and Nalan Yanran ended with his victory as expected. It’s just that...” Ling Ying hesitated for a moment, but he still told her all of the events that had happened when Xiao Yan went up to the Misty Cloud Sect for the Three Year Agreement with great detail. Among them, it naturally included Yun Shan taking action, and the soul-stirring escape that Xiao Yan had experienced.

“Ke ke, but it is fortunate that Young Master Xiao Yan’s tactics far exceeded my expectations. Although Yun Shan’s appearance shattered his plan, that Queen Medusa of his, which was his final hand also shook Yun Shan until he dared not attack. Finally, we left the Misty Cloud Sect in one piece.” Ling Ying quickly supplemented.

“Queen Medusa? Tsk tsk, Xiao Yan ge-ge is quite good. He is actually even able to gather this kind of strong person... Yun Shan huh... a strong Dou Zong...” Her delicate fingers pulled aside her black hair, which was drawn down in front of her forehead. Surprise flashed across the young lady’s eyes. Immediately, she laughed faintly as she softly said, “The Misty Cloud Sect has remained affixed and sealed itself, sticking only within the Jia Ma Empire. Ever since Yun

Po Tian back then, there are no longer any shocking or outstanding people coming from there. If this continues, it is only a matter of time before it will be replaced.”

TL: ge-ge – elder brother or refer to a close male who is slightly older (sometimes intimately)

“Is Xiao Yan ge-ge well?” The bright eyes of the young lady were lifted

gently as she asked once again. When she said that name, her exquisite white face had an alluring but embarrassed sleek redness,

“Ke ke, yes.” Ling Ying smiled and nodded. He raised his head and said something which appeared to have deeper meaning, “In the past, the old me didn’t really understand why Young Miss (xiao-jie) was protecting him in this manner. However, after teaming up with him this time around, I understand some of it. Young Miss’ foresight is quite good. I think that if that little fellow were given enough time, I’m afraid that even the Clan Head would not dare to easily deny him.

When she heard Ling Ying’s praise, an arc which was difficult to notice was lifted on the young lady’s face. She did not know how many praises she had heard. However, each time she heard someone praise Xiao Yan, her heart would involuntarily leap like some little girl.

“However, you should also know that this is under the precondition that he is given enough time. Our clan is spread all over the continent. They have seen quite a lot of shockingly talented and outstanding people. Unfortunately, the people who can finally and truly step toward the peak are so few that can be counted easily. Therefore, those people in the clan only look at the present and are not willing to bother with what your potential is worth. This was because such things are fleeting and who knows how things will be?”

“Yes.” Ling Ying nodded slightly. What she said was indeed true. This world had never lacked geniuses.

“Therefore, the current Xiao Yan ge-ge still has a long path to walk.” The young lady was slightly quiet. She immediately smiled saucily as she softly said, “However, no manner how long, I am also willing to wait until he becomes a true strong person at the peak.”

“Ah, that Xiao Yan little fellow. Even if Young Miss is willing to wait, if you are not able to become very strong, the road for you and Young Miss will face countless number of ups and downs. You should know that with Young Miss’s talent and beauty as well as the faction she represents, your competitors will be so strong that you would be stunned. Even if Young

Miss were to protect you when that time comes, will that proud bone of yours be willing to endure the shame and hide behind Young Miss's back?" Ling Ying maintained his silence as he eyed the young lady, who was as ethereal as a fairy, under the shine of the morning glow. However, he was muttering softly within his heart.

Back then, the young man was able to clench his teeth and train bitterly for three years and endured an endless amount of suffering, just because of an engagement that was canceled. All that he was aiming for was to appear with the stance of a strong person in front of the lady who had stepped on his pride. If this kind of person were asked to hide behind a woman's back, and then let him watch his own woman help him block all the rain and wind, it would be likely that he would feel even worse than being killed.

"That's right, Old Ling, what level is Xiao Yan ge-ge's strength currently at?" The young lady appeared to have suddenly recalled something and asked somewhat curiously.

"When I left, Young Master Xiao Yan's strength was around that of a one star Da Dou Shi." Ling Ying smiled as he answered.

"A one star Da Dou Shi huh." The young lady's bright eyes were bent into a shallow crescent shapes as she smiled and said, "In two year's time, he became a Da Dou Shi from an ordinary Dou Shi. Advancing one class each year. This speed could nearly be ranked among the top five within the Jia Nan Academy. Looks like the training that Xiao Yan ge-ge underwent during these past two years was quite tough."

"How will one grow if one is not honed? Young Master Xiao Yan is like a good jade which had yet to be polished. Back then, that Nalan Yanran polished away the laziness of this piece of jade. The bitter training in the following years later hid that cutting edge of his. An excellent sword must be concealed in a box and the cutting edge must be hidden. Only by carrying on like this will one achieve great things." Ling Ying fondled his beard and smiled as he replied.

"Old Ling, why have you praised Xiao Yan ge-ge to this extent after

making a trip to the Jia Ma Empire? In the past, I have seldom seen you say such things about others.” The young lady covered her mouth and laughed. Her eyes were filled with a smile.

“It is just that the little fellow is worth this evaluation. None of my personal feelings are mixed into it.” Ling Ying smiled before immediately saying, “I think that perhaps in one or two months’ time, Young Master Xiao Yan will arrive at Jia Nan Academy. When that time comes, Young Miss’ pain from longing will be eased.”

The corner of the young lady’s mouth contained a warm and gentle smile. She slowly lifted her head and the skinny figure of the young man slowly surfaced in her mind. It has been over two years. Finally, they could meet each other again.

A warmth surfaced in her heart. It was a long time later before the young lady lowered her head, and eyed Ling Ying in front of her. She took a few small continuous steps and walked toward the foot of the mountain.

“Old Ling, for this period of time, you should first find a place to rest outside of Jia Nan Academy. You need not sneak into the academy if there are no urgent matters. Otherwise, if those old fellows were to know about it, I’m afraid that we’ll get into all sorts of trouble again. Those old lunatics may give our clan face but they are still very firm when it comes to some of the rules. On the point of the rules of the academy, there are only a few people in this continent who can be counted that can cause them to give in.” The figure of the young woman was gradually hidden between the tree leaves. Her voice, however, still lingered in the original spot.

“Ke ke, alright. If there is anything, Young Miss only needs to blow that pipe and the old me will immediately hurry over.” Ling Ying smiled and nodded. He twisted his body, turned into a shadow once again and merged with the shadow of a large tree. Finally, he gradually disappeared.

The young lady slowly walked down the mountain. Her faint, green-colored figure formed an alluring silhouette under the sunlight.

“Ke ke, Xun Er mei, what a coincidence. You have also just descended

from your training in the mountains?” As the young lady walked quietly, a warm voice suddenly sounded from her side. The young lady halted her footsteps, lifted her head and took a look. She saw a handsome young man wearing a white-colored outfit not far from the foot of the mountain who was standing with a smile. The smile was elegant with a compliment of warmth. This impressive face accompanied by the warm smile would cause even a girl who was a stranger seeing him for the first time to involuntarily lower their guard a little.

TL: mei – younger sister or a younger close female friend (intimate)

“Yes.” Seeing the white-clothed young man, whose body was tall and straight, Xun Er’s face did not appear too gentle because of the outstanding appearance of the other person. She also knew that this young man was not a man who relied on his looks to survive and that his strength was at the very forefront of Jia Nan Academy. He was able to stand out among the outstanding people chosen from all over the land and was even a person who stood at the top among the younger generation at Jia Nan Academy.

Xun Er’s indifferent greeting did not cause the face of the white-robed young man to have any change. He laughed softly, took two steps forward and was about to come closer to have a chat when the former took the lead to open her mouth, and stifled his words, “Senior Bai Shan, Xun Er temporarily has some matters to attend to, and cannot accompany you to chat. Goodbye.”

The young lady smiled and immediately turned around, and walked to another small path. However, she had yet to take a few steps when another voice sounded.

“Xun Er, you have indeed come here again.” When Xun Er heard this voice, which was as gentle as water, she finally revealed a warm smile. She turned her head and saw a mature woman, who had walked over from a small path by the side. With a smile, she said, “Instructor Ruo Ling, were you looking for me?”

Hearing this name, it was clear that the person who arrived was actually

Instructor Ruo Ling, who had gone to Wu Tan City to recruit new students two years ago. The two years did not leave any traces on that gentle and beautiful face of the current her. Instead, after being brewed, it appeared to have an even greater, more mature charm compared to two years ago.

Instructor Ruo Ling walked closer to Xun Er and helplessly patted the latter's head. She said, "In another half a month's time, it will be the Promotion Competition of the Academy. You should know that as long as you pass the matches in the competition, you will have the qualification to enter the Inner Academy to train. Each year, the academy only have fifty vacancies. Originally, you could already participate in it last year, but you passed up the opportunity."

"Last year, Xun Er had just arrived. How could I dare compete with all the Seniors?" Xun Er gave a saucy smile as she spoke.

"Please don't give me that. Do you think that I don't know what you were thinking in your heart? Aren't you simply waiting for that fellow to go together with you?" When she said up to this point, Instructor Ruo Ling suddenly gritted her white teeth. A resentful fury surfaced on her gentle face and a few rare vulgarities even erupted from her mouth, "Xiao Yan that bastard. He actually dared to fool around with old me. His one year leave was something that I settled after bearing a lot of pressure. However, one year has already passed, but I have yet to see him! He really infuriates me! If it were not for you who pestered me for the entire day, I would have simply crossed out his name and forgotten about it!"

"Instructor Ruo Ling, be rest assured that Xiao Yan ge-ge will definitely hurry over this year." Xun Er quickly replied when she heard this outburst.

"What's the use even if he managed to come? He was absent for training in the academy for two years. Don't tell me that his training speed outside will be even faster than the training method that has gone through all kinds of assessment by various predecessors?" Instructor Ruo Ling helplessly said, "If he wants to successfully obtain a spot, he would at least need to reach the strength of a Da Dou Shi. Moreover, this would only be if his luck was good and did not meet certain monsters in the early rounds."

“Instructor Ruo Ling, you should not underestimate Xiao Yan ge-ge. Back then he used his Dou Zhe’s strength to endure twenty exchanges with your hands.” Xun Er’s bright eyes were curled slightly with a smile as she replied.

“I hope so. The Promotion Competition this time around is not as easy as the last time. There are over three hundred people in the entire academy who have the right to fight for it. If he wants to break through them, it will really be quite difficult if he did not have a couple of skills.” Instructor Ruo Ling pursed her lips and said. She still bore a grudge toward this delinquent who had actually dared to not show up as agreed.

“Then can instructor please write Xiao Yan ge-ge name in this time around.” Xun Er pulled Instructor Ruo Ling’s hand, and gave a lovely smile as she acted in a spoiled manner.

“Ah, I really have no way to deal with you. It has been two years but your mouth has been talking about that fellow over and over again. There are quite a lot of outstanding males in this Jia Nan Academy who are more outstanding than him. For example...” The corner of Instructor Ruo Ling’s eyes suddenly glance at Bai Shan, who was standing with a smile off to the side.

Xun Er smiled, but acted as though she did not hear anything.

“I just knew that you would ignore me.” Instructor Ruo Ling appeared to be aware of this effect as she withdrew her joke. She softly said, “Let’s go, it is about time for morning class. Return with me. I think that you are also unwilling to be entangled with Bai Shan here, right?”

Xun Er smiled and nodded. She pulled Instructor Ruo Ling, and the two of them appeared to be discussing something softly with one another as they slowly walked toward the other side of the small path.

The white-clothed young man continued to quietly stand by the side of the small path. His face carried a smile as he eyed the two people who had gradually become distant. A long while later, the smile on his face finally paled slightly. His long finger carelessly clamped a wilted yellow leaf that was falling down from a tree. He said blandly, “Xiao Yan? Is it that new

student who took an entire two years of leave? Ke, alright. You can show me just what qualification you actually have to cause Junior Xun Er to care so much about you? This kind of outstanding girl is not something that a mediocre person has the right to possess.”

Once he said this, Bai Shan slowly turned around. His hands, which were held behind his back abruptly flicked gently against the leaf from the tree. Immediately, a yellow shadow shot out explosively and was inserted into a huge rock far away in a lightning-like manner. Half of this seemingly weak leaf had actually penetrated into the tough rock.

Chapter 383: Great Plains of the Black Region

The 'Black-Corner Region', a special region that had been agglomerated and built up outside of the Jia Nan Academy due to chaos. There were many people who possessed doubts over why just outside the Jia Nan Academy, an ancient and long established academy, would possess such a chaotic region that was totally different from the atmosphere within the academy. Regardless of the reason, it was the truth that it existed. Despite numerous suppressions over the many years, the 'Black-Corner Region' was still expanding exponentially at a rate that caused many people to be stunned. The special property of this region's extreme resilience caused the opposing factions, who had the intention of suppressing the expansion of this region, to feel powerless.

The boundary of the 'Black-Corner Region' was extremely long. Moreover, after these few years of expansion, it had almost become a small country with clear borders. The only difference between it and other empires was that other empires had a leader standing right at the top, while this region was one where everyone fought for themselves. Various factions repeatedly fought and killed for their own benefit. It was so chaotic within the 'Black-Corner Region' that it was like a plate of loose sand. However, it was also because of this that the 'Black-Corner Region' was able to become increasingly stronger and larger in such a place as the middle of the continent. Otherwise it was likely that no faction would sit back and watch this special area, with shocking destructive strength, swiftly become stronger and soon pose a threat toward them.

Although the 'Black-Corner Region' was renowned throughout the continent for its chaos, the various kinds of high class Qi Methods, Dou Techniques, Medicinal Pills, and other unique goods that flowed through here also attracted many strong people from all over the continent. After all, regardless of what happened, these few things were necessary to the point that even they were envious of. Being able to obtain an even higher class Qi Methods than the one they had been practicing would mean that

they could take another step forward on the journey to becoming a strong person. This kind of temptation was undoubtedly fatal toward many strong people.

Therefore, the 'Black-Corner Region' was like an extremely dark bottomless pit. A countless number of unique treasures flowed into that place from various channels. After that, they would be auctioned off and sold for sky high prices, causing countless people to fight for them.

Due to the mysterious organization that had suddenly appeared, Xiao Yan's originally somewhat relaxed heart had once again tensed up. Although a clear trace of him had yet to be discovered by that mysterious organization, Xiao Yan felt a coldness that prickled his back as long as he thought of how a strong person like Yao Lao had been constrained by them until he dared not randomly appear.

Being spurred on by this faint coldness that had faintly shrouded his heart and spirit, Xiao Yan finally understood that the kind of laid-back, ordinary life he had been living was far too much of a luxury. Currently, there were far too many of things which he carried on his back. His father's disappearance and the mysterious organization chasing after Yao Lao. All of these mysteries were like a fog of darkness that was hounding him, causing Xiao Yan to be afraid of sparing even a little thought about resting.

If he wanted to solve the mystery, he would need very great strength. Xiao Yan was also clear that the source of his strength was not ordinary training, but was instead those mysterious 'Heavenly Flames' that existed between the heavens and the earth. Although this kind of action was dangerous and crazy, for Xiao Yan who possessed the 'Flame Mantra', it was undoubtedly the fastest shortcut for him to become a strong person.

In order to quickly increase his strength and allow himself to possess the strength needed to contend with the mysterious organization when they came to look for him, he would need to obtain the 'Fallen Heart Flame' within the Jia Nan Academy with the greatest speed.

"I am once again pressed for time. Ah." A human figure flew past the

somewhat drowsy sky in a lightning-like manner. Xiao Yan lowered his head and glanced at the trees, which were swiftly flying past below him as he muttered with a bitter smile.

Ever since Yao Lao had told him about the goals and tendencies of the mysterious organization, Xiao Yan had abandoned his thought of touring all the way toward Jia Nan Academy. Instead, he directly activated his Purple Cloud Wings, and travelled with great hardship, both day and night, as he moved along the route on the map, and flew toward the 'Black-Corner Region'.

The distance between the Jia Ma Empire and the 'Black-Corner Region' was extremely vast. Xiao Yan needed to pass through quite a number of small countries along the way before he could even reach the border of the 'Black-Corner Region'. If he were to cover this great distance by walking or by riding carriages, he was afraid that he really could not reach his destination without at least three to five months, or even half a year's time. Moreover, this was on the precondition that his journey was unobstructed. After all, it was impossible for territories within these small countries to be as peaceful as they were within the Jia Ma Empire. Due to the terrain, the country's strength or for many other reasons, battles would usually occur in these places daily. Various mercenaries engaged in huge chaotic battles for profits. Moreover, when there came a day when they really did not have any money to spend, these mercenary companies would turn into notorious bandit troops. As long as the defensive strength of any merchants whom they met was not very strong, it was likely that their fortune, along with their women, would all be snatched away and end up in a miserable state.

By using the Purple Cloud Wings in lieu of walking, Xiao Yan may have ended up exhausting a great amount of Dou Qi, were it not for the support of the 'Energy Recovery Pills' which he had refined earlier. Adding to that, his 'Flame Mantra' Qi Method had already evolved to the Middle Level Xuan Class. With the cooperation of the two, Xiao Yan barely managed to support his long distance flight. However, every two days, he needed to land on the ground, and begin an in depth training session that lasted for

at least a day in order to recover his nearly numb muscles and spirit after flying for such a long time.

With him rushing through the journey with all of his strength in this manner, the 'Black-Corner Region', which would have required at least half a year or more to reach if he were to travel at a laid back pace, was forcefully reduced by Xiao Yan by more than ten times.

After flying for nearly ten days using the Purple Cloud Wings, the monotonous mountain range below Xiao Yan suddenly became much closer. He was slightly startled, and immediately lifted his head to sweep his gaze over the distant area, only to see dark, black-colored plains at the edge of his sight. It was like a black line that completely isolated the world within from the world outside.

"This is the Great Plains of the 'Black Region'?" Xiao Yan watched the black line, which was gradually becoming larger in his eyes. His face, which had been filled with fatigue and dust, suddenly become very alert. A smile like he had put down a heavy burden spread from the corner of his mouth. According to the indication of the map, this 'Great Plains of the Black Region' was the gateway to the 'Black-Corner Region'. As long as one stepped into here, one would have entered that chaotic world which was out of tune with the outside world.

"We have finally arrived." Xiao Yan used great force to rub his large, black eyes. His body slowly descended. Although the 'Black-Corner Region' was just a short distance in front of him, he did not choose to enter it immediately. Since even Yao Lao had repeatedly emphasized to him about the chaos of this place, he felt that it would not be wise if he entered this place, where danger lurked around every corner in his exhausted condition.

"You should recover first. Although it has been extremely tough rushing this journey these past ten days, you have also received a lot of benefits. The Dou Qi in your body is only becoming stronger under this kind of repeated exhaustion." Yao Lao's voice sounded from his heart at this moment.

“Ah.” Xiao Yan nodded. He slowly landed in a mountainous forest and swiftly scouted around. When he did not discover the presence of any humans or beasts, he finally relaxed and searched for a covert place. He sat cross-legged, took out an ‘Energy Recovery Pill’, and popped it into his mouth. The seal was formed by his hands and he shut his eyes.

As Xiao Yan entered his training mode, faint energy ripples began to seep out from within his body. A suction force, which was partially visible, swiftly sucked all the energy around his body into it. After which, it was refined and poured into the somewhat-dim Dou Crystal within the vortex. Its appearance was caused by his overdrawn Dou Qi.

The quiet training lasted for nearly half the afternoon. Only then did the faint energy ripple around Xiao Yan’s body gradually weakened until it completely disappeared.

Xiao Yan’s tightly shut eyelashes gently twitched. He immediately opened his eyes and a green-colored flame flashed across those dark eyes. He opened his mouth slightly, and a mouthful of turbid air contained some black color as it was being exhaled. The black, turbid air gradually curled upward. Any leaves which came into contact with it instantly corroded until nothing was left.

The fatigue which covered Xiao Yan’s face had completely disappeared the moment he exhaled that mouthful of somewhat strange black air, Replacing it was a faint, warm, jade-like radiance.

Xiao Yan lifted his head and knit his eyebrows as he watched the faint amount of rising black air. His eyes narrowed and he suddenly lowered his head to look at his middle finger. He could see that the originally long and pale finger had actually once again become as black as ink, appearing extremely strange.

“Is this the ‘Searing Poison’? I thought that it had disappeared by itself. It had actually been hiding this whole time.” Seeing the black finger, which had not appeared for a long time, Xiao Yan could not help but laugh bitterly.

“If this thing is resolved properly, it might be a unique attack of yours

against an enemy. On the other hand, if it is not resolved properly, it will cause many problems. After all, this kind of toxin has undergone mutations and has developed a resistance to many different types of antidotes. Its destructive power is also quite shocking.” Yao Lao’s voice was somewhat serious as he spoke.

Xiao Yan nodded his head helplessly. He flicked his finger. The black color swiftly paled, and a moment later, it had completely vanished. That appearance was as though it had hidden into some secret place that Xiao Yan could not detect.

“If it were not because I wanted to obtain the ‘Seven Magical Green Spirit Saliva’ to help teacher’s spirit awaken, I would also not have helped that old fellow. The promises that he had made were as though he had farted. Hee hee, he is indeed a crafty person.” Xiao Yan stood up and suddenly let out a cold laughter. After he helped Nalan Jie completely expel the poison, that old fellow had an extremely grateful appearance, but what happened after that? He saw with his own eyes that Xiao Yan was being chased by the Misty Cloud Sect, who wanted to kill him, yet Nalan Jie did not make even the slightest move.

“Hu, there is no need to talk about that disappointing old fellow. Teacher, should we enter the ‘Black-Corner Region’ now?” Xiao Yan shook his head. He stood at the peak of the mountain as he gazed at the black colored plain in the distance and asked.

“Ah.” Yao Lao nodded his head. He immediately reminded, “Try to use your ‘Purple Cloud Wings’ as little as possible within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. A flying Dou Technique is an extremely rare item and it could be forcefully snatched by others. If you were to meet some strong person, they might become greedy and end up killing you just to steal them.”

“Uh?” Xiao Yan was startled. A long while later, he smiled bitterly and said, “Looks like this damn place really is chaotic without boundaries. At the very least, the strong people within the Jia Ma Empire still have some pride. It is extremely rare for someone to attack and rob another. However, in this place, something like this is considered as routine and careless as eating at home.”

“Ha ha, if this were not the case, how can the ‘Black-Corner Region’ have the qualification to be called the most chaotic region in the entire continent?” Yao Lao laughed out loud, “Alright, little fellow, let’s go. Although the inside of this place is dangerous and chaotic, the number of good things will cause one to be dazzled. Aren’t you planning to help that Hai Bodong gather the medicinal ingredients needed to refine the ‘Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill’? You can definitely find all of them here.”

“It will naturally be good if that is the case.” Xiao Yan rejoiced a little upon hearing this. Xiao Yan had been bearing in mind the favor that Hai Bodong had given him in the Jia Ma Empire by using all of his strength to help him escape twice. The ‘Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill’, which Xiao Yan owed Hai Bodong, caused a knot in his heart. Currently being able obtain the medicinal ingredients caused him to sigh in relief.

After arranging everything properly, with the enormous Heavy Xuan Ruler strapped to his back, Xiao Yan twisted his neck and stomped his feet on the ground. As an explosion of energy was released from under his feet, Xiao Yan’s body shot forward like an arrow which had left a bow, turning into a black shadow which dashed toward the dark black grassland.

“Hei, the ‘Black-Corner Region’. I want to see just how chaotic you actually are.”

Chapter 384: A Chaotic Region Where Compassion is Unnecessary

As one glanced over the endless plain as far as the eye could see, there was only a monotonous black color. Against the background of the somewhat dark sky, a depressive atmosphere that caused one to feel fretful shrouded the plain. In this somewhat strange place, it was little wonder why those chaotic rules were born.

A black shadow suddenly shot out from the distance on this quiet plain. The speed of the black shadow was extremely quick. As it flashed, it appeared to be teleporting. However, each time a foot landed on the ground, it would bring about a muffled thunder explosion. The explosive sound formed a ripple shape that spread on the plain, and gradually became distant.

While the human figure ran at his maximum speed, he suddenly lifted his head slightly and revealed a delicate and handsome young face. He was Xiao Yan who had shuttled from thousands of kilometers away. The current him was frowning as he watched the vast plain. He softly muttered, "This damn place really causes people to feel constrained, but why is it that I have yet to see anyone after having entered into this plain for such a long time?"

"Continue heading forward. I think that it is likely that Hai Bodong has never come here before. Therefore, the map which he gave you does not have the exact route on the Great Plain of the Black Region. Now, we can only enter some small town on the plain and then purchase a map of this place." Yao Lao said somewhat uncertainly. He was similarly unfamiliar with this place, having only heard some information about it.

"Yes." Xiao Yan helplessly nodded and could only continue burying his head and hurrying along bitterly.

"That's right, little fellow. I will remind you once again. In this 'Black-Corner Region', don't have too much compassion. In here, that thing is something which is thrown into the smelly gutters. If you have it, there

won't be even the slightest bit of benefit for you. Instead, it will drag you into a quagmire." Yao Lao suddenly reminded him once again.

"Killing a chicken to warn the monkeys is the best tactic here."

TL: Killing a chicken to warn the monkeys – Hurting someone to set the example so that others are warned.

Xiao Yan smiled faintly and said, "I am not some excessively good person, neither am I a saint who is full of compassion. It is not my turn to perform those great things like rescuing the suffering of the world. I am only thinking of letting myself become stronger and then go and protect the people whom I should protect. I am in no mood nor am I qualified to bother about others."

"That is the best attitude to survive within the 'Black-Corner Region.'" Yao Lao smiled upon hearing this as he sighed in relief. He similarly did not hope that his student was that kind of soft hearted saint. This was because he knew that these kinds of people were those that would most likely not live for long.

Instead of becoming a saint with a short life, he would rather Xiao Yan be an evil person who would choose to use vicious, and all sorts of underhanded means in order to protect the people whom he should protect.

Xiao Yan sighed. He continued to lower his head and charge forward. After continuing to run for nearly half an hour, a small black dot faintly appeared within his sight. As he moved closer, this black dot also gradually expanded. Bits and pieces of white colored tents appeared within Xiao Yan's sight. The place was actually a small sized tribal camp.

As he heard those sound of people faintly being transmitted from the tents, Xiao Yan sighed in relief within his heart. His feet pressed gently on the ground and his body was like a black shadow which ran over toward that small tribal camp.

After running for nearly two to three minutes, the tribal camp finally completely appeared in Xiao Yan's eyes. He gradually slowed his body down and slowly walked toward the outside of the main entrance of the

tribal camp.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept all around him when he came into such close contact. He realized that this tribal camp was actually not very small. There were nearly one hundred large and small tents placed one after another. Hearing the noise that repeatedly sounded from within it, the human traffic here appears quite good.

Xiao Yan walked closer to the main entrance of the tribal camp when his expression suddenly changed. His feet abruptly took one step back as a long arrow abruptly broke through the air and shot over. It was violently inserted into the grass in front of him. From the tail of the arrow which was swaying repeatedly, one could see that the person who released the arrow definitely did not have any intention of leaving anyone alive.

After Xiao Yan dodged the long arrow, a soft surprised 'hey' sounded from the fences of the tribal camp not far away.

"I am only passing through here and planning only to restock my supply. What do you mean by this?" Xiao Yan coldly glanced at a certain spot at the fences and coldly cried out.

"Chi, don't tell me you are a novice who has just entered the 'Black-Corner Region'? You actually don't even know the rule that you must hand over the road fees one hundred meters away before you enter the tribal camp?" A human figure leaped onto the top of the fences. When he heard these words of Xiao Yan, he was initially startled before he immediately appeared to have understood something. He raised his eyebrows and a strange expression swiftly flashed across his eyes.

Xiao Yan frowned, road fees?

"Five hundred gold coins. Hurry up. Don't act so slowly and waste my time. Don't tell me that you cannot even afford to pay for the road fees?" Seeing Xiao Yan's hesitating manner, the strange expression in that man's eyes grew even more magnificent. His voice was instead a little slower as he urged.

"What a strange rule." Xiao Yan sighed in his heart. He flicked his hand and a bag of gold coins appeared in his hand. After which, he threw it over

to the man. The latter hurriedly received it. He carefully counted once before waving his hand and cried out in a dry voice, "Open the gate."

Upon hearing this voice, the broken wooden door of the tribal camp immediately began creaking as it was opened. It revealed the road within it and the human flow coming and going.

"Come in, novice fellow." That skinny man parted his mouth and laughed as he spoke with a smile.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly. It was really as Yao Lao had said. This 'Black-Corner Region' did not have many ordinary people. His hand held the hilt of the ruler on his shoulders and he raised the caution in his heart as he slowly walked toward the main entrance and before striding in.

Once he entered the tribal camp, the roads which were formed by the tents appeared in his eyes. There were various different kinds of booths that were displayed outside of the tents with many strange and unique items placed on them. At this moment, there were also quite a number of people carrying weapons in their hands as they walked around the place.

"I should first go and find if there are any maps being sold." Xiao Yan repeated in his heart. He had just entered the street when a human figure flashed in front of him. Immediately, three men carrying shining knives in their hands blocked him while wearing a thick dark smile on their faces.

"Hei, I will tell you, novice who has just arrived at the 'Black-Corner Region'. Today, let me teach you the first rule within the 'Black-Corner Region'. That is don't let others easily see that you are a novice who has just arrived." An awful trumpet like laughter sounded from behind him. Xiao Yan turned around to take a look. The skinny man who had shot the arrow from earlier was holding a bow and arrow in his hand. The sharp arrow on the bow was aimed at Xiao Yan from a distance.

"Hand over all the things on you. Your money, weapons or any other things. Hand over everything you have. If my mood is good, I may only keep one arm of yours as a price for you making a mistake." The skinny man parted his mouth and laughed.

"It is indeed worthy of being the 'Black-Corner Region'. It is just

unfortunate that no matter how a group of grasshopper jumped, they are at the end of the day still grasshoppers.” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept over the street in front of him and spoke. At the moment, the group of people on the street has also discovered the situation here. However, there was not a single person who stepped forward to help Xiao Yan ease out of the situation. Instead, each and everyone hugged their arms. Their faces were mocking as though they were watching a performance.

“Little fellow, you have finally understood after experiencing it personally, right? What that fellow said is correct. Don’t let anyone see your background or bottomline within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. In this place there are no so called good people so don’t hope that those in the audience would step forward to help. It is already very unexpected that they didn’t add insult to injury by coming over and hacking at you a couple of times.” Yao Lao’s voice sounded in Xiao Yan’s heart.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His hand slowly gripped the hilt of the Heavy Xuan Ruler.

When they saw Xiao Yan’s action, the faces of the three people blocking in front of Xiao Yan immediately turned cold. They did not say any unnecessary words. The knives in their hands directly hacked ferociously toward Xiao Yan’s neck in front of them. Their attacks were extremely vicious.

“Bang, bang, bang.”

The sharp blades had yet to reach their targets when a black shadow suddenly flashed passed. The dark and cold expressions of the three people instantly became pale. Their bodies appeared to have been smashed by a huge hammer as they were suddenly smashed into a tent behind them. Fresh blood dyed the white-colored tent until it was extremely eye-piercing.

“Bastard!”

In a split second, three of his companions were struck heavily. An appalled and ruthless feeling flashed across the eyes of that skinny man. The bow in his hand was about to move when a black shadow suddenly

appeared behind him. A thick low voice softly sounded, "In the future, before you strike, you better clearly distinguish the gap between both parties. However, I think that you may not have a next time."

"Glug!" As the words fell, the black ruler heavily smashed into the back of that man. Immediately, a mouthful of fresh blood mingled with internal organs which had been shattered by the enormous force was vomited out.

Xiao Yan's expression was indifferent as he eyed the person who fell down softly. He flipped his hand and inserted the Heavy Xuan Ruler onto his back. After which, he slowly walked on the street. The faces of those people in the human crowd which were originally filled with ridicule suddenly became dull for an instant when they saw him enter. They then hurriedly hid their expressions, and allowed the human figure carrying some scent of blood to float past in front of them.

Only when Xiao Yan slowly disappeared around the corner of the street did the crowd here recover the liveliness from before. They smiled as they eyed the corpses which were plummeted at the main entrance. There was no pity within their eyes. They simply praised, "Hei, this young man is really ruthless enough. He acted decisively, and actually did not have the slightest hesitation when he killed people. He's man enough. Looks like he will be able to live quite comfortably within the 'Black-Corner Region'."

At this moment, Xiao Yan naturally did not know that due to his ruthless means, he had won such high praise. It looks like the flowery words that Yao Lao had mentioned were indeed true.

After Xiao Yan walked along a few streets which were not considered to be too long for a couple of times, he was disappointed to realize that this small tribal camp actually did not have any maps being sold.

Xiao Yan shook his head, feeling depressed. Just as he planned to find someone to ask for a rough route, a somewhat fat human figure suddenly appeared in front of him. The man's face was full of smiles.

"Mister, you are intending to buy maps, right? Earlier, I saw you inquiring all the way here." The fatty smiled and spoke in front of Xiao Yan.

“You have one?” Xiao Yan glanced at this fat stranger and asked blandly.

“I am a merchant who walks on this Great Plains of the Black Region. Naturally, I must carry the most precise map.” The fat man smiled again as he replied.

“What’s the price?” There was still not the slightest fluctuation in Xiao Yan’s voice. In this ‘Black-Corner Region’, there was no free lunch.

“Ke ke, I will tell Mister something honest. In this Great Plains of the Black Region’, even if you possessed a map, you would also have difficulty finding your exact destination. This is because there will occasionally be a Black Storm that covers the sky and blots out the sun occurring on the plains. During such times, a map is useless. Only those people who have great experience can successfully walk out of the Black Storm. However, I think that Mister, being a newcomer, should not have such experience, right?”

The fatty shook his head and said with another smile, “I shall not beat around the bush with you. Earlier, at the entrance to the tribal camp, I notice that your strength is not bad. Therefore, I want to hire you to be a guard of my mercenary group. If your aim is to pass through this Great Pains of the Black Region, and enter into the inner ‘Black-Corner Region’, you can accompany me on the journey. However, as the compensation for leading you out of the Great Plains, you must help out a little when my mercenary group meets some trouble. What do you think?”

Xiao Yan knit his eyebrows slightly together when he heard this. In his heart, he cautiously asked, “Teacher, is it really as he has said?”

“Uh. The Great Plains of the Black Region is indeed known for its Black Storm. People without great experience will really lose their direction. It is said that an unlucky fellow back then was hurrying on with his journey within a Black Storm. In the end, he moved over half a circle around the Great Plains and ended up dying of fatigue.” Yao Lao hesitated for a moment before continuing, “If you want to pass through the Great Plains of the Dark Region, you can really save a lot of trouble if you travel with an experienced merchant group.”

“Ke ke, the destination of our mercenary company is the ‘Black Mark City’ within the inner part of the ‘Black-Corner Region’. The annual Great Auction Fair will be held the day after tomorrow at that place. Therefore, I need to increase the strength of my defense and seize the time to hurry over. Otherwise, I will also not find an unfamiliar person.” The fatty smiled and explained the somewhat presumptuous action of his.

“Great Auction Fair?” Xiao Yan’s heart moved slightly when he heard this name. The most attractive thing within the ‘Black-Corner Region’ were those mysterious items that left people speechless. Each time the auction was held, it would attract a countless number of people to bid for the items.

Xiao Yan once again mused for a moment in his heart. He then ceased hesitating and nodded.

“Let’s have a pleasant collaboration. You can call me Duo Ma.” Seeing that Xiao Yan nodded his head, the fatty immediately sigh in relief. He smiled extended his hand toward Xiao Yan.

“Yao Yan.” Xiao Yan careless shook the other person’s fat hand as he said indifferently.

Chapter 385: Black Ranking, Black Storm

A fleet of carts quickly moved past on this black plain, lifting wisps of faint yellow dust before finally disappearing at the edge of one's sight.

Xiao Yan was seated cross-legged within a somewhat bumpy horse carriage. The person in front of him was the person in charge of the merchant convoy called Duo Ma. This merchant group was indeed not very strong, as he had mentioned. Among them, the strongest person appeared to have the strength of a five star Dou Shi. Of course, as the leader of the guards hired by Duo Ma, that fellow naturally felt somewhat unhappy at Xiao Yan who had suddenly joined them. However, after Xiao Yan had 'accidentally' knocked him off the horse carriage with a palm while they were rushing through the journey, he had become much more honest. It was also because of this palm that Duo Ma's warmth toward Xiao Yan had become much more fervent. It even resulted in him even directly inviting Xiao Yan to sit in his carriage to properly receive him. After all, under the danger of them being robbed anywhere, one would feel much more reassured if there was a strong person sitting among the convoy.

The current Duo Ma had taken out a map, which was somewhat old and yellowed, from his chest pocket. He placed it on the table in front of him and slowly pulled it open. His finger pointed at a red dot and he smiled as he said, "This is our destination, the 'Black Mark City'. According to our speed, we should be able to arrive by tomorrow afternoon."

Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at the yellowing map. His gaze paused on the dot for 'Black Mark City' for a moment before slowly moving along a route upward and finally saw a blue-colored star right in the middle.

"That should be the Jia Nan Academy, right?" Xiao Yan's gaze glanced at the blue-colored star. His face did not have even the slightest change as he carelessly asked.

"Ah, that is the Jia Nan Academy which is renowned throughout the whole Dou Qi Continent. My daughter is within it. Ke ke." Duo Ma nodded

his head. When he mentioned his daughter, that face of his swelled with pride.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded. He imprinted the route firmly into his heart. After which, his gaze once again swept toward the black-colored region surrounding the exterior of Jia Nan Academy. The black-colored region was divided into quite a number of areas, all of which were different sizes.

“The current ‘Black-Corner Region’ has basically been completely divided by some big factions. Although they still repeatedly fight with and kill one another for territories, there should not be any major changes within a short period of time.” When he saw Xiao Yan’s gaze, Duo Ma, who was a merchant, could naturally understand some of Xiao Yan’s uncertainty. Although he could guess that Xiao Yan should be a new person who had just arrived at the ‘Black-Corner Region’ for the first time, the shrewd him did not mention even a little of this. Instead, he smiling explained the situation.

“The ‘Black Mark City’, which we are currently heading toward, is controlled by the ‘Eight Gates’. The ‘Eight Gates’ is an old faction within the ‘Black-Corner Region’ and its strength is extremely great. It is said that the strength of their leader, Yuan Yi, can be ranked within the top ten of the ‘Black Ranking’ in the ‘Black-Corner Region’. The Great Auction Fair in the ‘Black Mark City’ is also conducted by their ‘Eight Gates’ this time.” Duo Ma’s finger pointed at a small circle surrounding ‘Black Mark City’, which had been carved out as he smiled again while he spoke.

“Black Ranking?” The foreign term caused Xiao Yan to confused as he muttered softly to himself.

“Ke ke, this ‘Black Ranking’ is not very different from the ranking of the strong people in some countries. It is just that the competition for the ‘Black Ranking’ here far exceeds that of other competitions of other empires. This is because, in merely less than two years, the last three positions on the ‘Black Ranking’ were directly taken over. It is said that the three who were replaced them were all strong people at the Dou Wang class.” Duo Ma shook his head and sighed.

“Oh?” Xiao Yan’s face visibly moved when he heard this. It should be known that the Ten Strong of the Jia Ma Empire would have at least a decade before there was a rotation or a change. Yet, in this place, even a strong Dou Wang was eliminated this quickly. It was difficult to imagine just how brutal the competition was.

“Who are those who are ranked among the top few of the ‘Black Ranking’? What is their strength like?” Xiao Yan softly asked. His voice was somewhat curious.

“Not many people have seen the two who are ranked first and second due to them being excessively mysterious. Therefore, I don’t have much knowledge of them. However, the one ranked third is an extraordinary strong person. It is said that his strength is already at the peak of the Dou Huang class. Moreover, he is extremely proficient in his medicinal refining skills and could be called the best in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ when it comes to refining medicine. Therefore, many people have addressed him as ‘Medicine Emperor’.” Duo Ma voiced his thoughts.

TL: Medicine in pinyin is Yao.

“Medicine Emperor? Such a name carries quite some weight.” Xiao Yan smiled faintly and said, “What is his real name?”

“Ah, let me think. I think he is called Han Feng.” Duo Ma rubbed his head and spoke with a smile.

“Chi!”

Just as the words came from Duo Fa’s mouth, Xiao Yan’s finger, which was hidden in his sleeve suddenly trembled intensely. Some thick white flame involuntarily erupted from the black-colored ring on his finger. Finally, it resulted in his finger landing on a board of the carriage and the high temperature directly burned a small hole through it.

The sudden change of the ring also caused Xiao Yan’s expression to change slightly. It was however, fortunate that with the cover of the sleeves, Duo Ma in front of him did not discover this unexpected change.

“Teacher, what happened to you?” Xiao Yan’s finger gently rubbed the

black ring as he softly asked in his heart. The change within the ring earlier was clearly because of a sudden violent surge of Yao Lao's emotion within it.

Xiao Yan did not receive a response to his question. The current Yao Lao appeared to have become completely silent.

When he sensed Yao Lao's complete silence, Xiao Yan also wisely did not continue to ask. However, he had firmly remembered the name of 'Han Feng' within his heart. This person appeared to have a huge relationship with Yao Lao in the past.

"Mister Yao Yan, are you alright?" Seeing that Xiao Yan's expression had suddenly changed, Duo Ma opposite him could not help but ask somewhat uncertainly.

"I'm fine." Xiao Yan smiled. He was about to say something when he suddenly realized that there was some disturbance outside of the horse carriage. Numerous exclamations were transmitted into the horse carriage, "Everyone take note, the 'Black Storm' is about to approach. Hurry up and prepare to stop the carriages! Do not wander so you do not lose your way."

"Black Storm? We are really unlucky to meet it once again." Hearing the exclamation from outside, Duo Ma's expression changed slightly. However, he did not show extreme panic. He faced Xiao Yan and said, "Mister Yao Yan, let's get off the carriage first. As long as we properly take necessary steps for protection, this Black Storm, which isn't considered very big, is unlikely to cause too much danger."

Xiao Yan nodded his head, pulled aside the curtain of the carriage and leaped down. He lifted his head and took a look only to discover that the sky that had been clear just ten minutes ago was now strangely covered by a black fog. His gaze was drawn to his front but his sight was seriously hindered. Only then did he realize why Duo Ma would say that if one were to meet a Black Storm, it was useless, even if one had a map.

"Ke ke, Mister Yao Yan, you need not worry. I have sensed the wind and the storm isn't very strong. This can be considered a great fortune in an

unfortunate situation.” Duo Ma stood by Xiao Yan’s side and smiled as he said, “Although the Black Storm is a weather phenomenon in the Great Plains of the Black Region, which causes people to feel despondent over, it is much better compared to those brutal, dark bandits. At the very least, if one’s luck is a little good when meeting Black Storms, one can still preserve one’s life. However, if one were to meet the large army of bandits numbering in the tens of thousands, it is likely that one can only surrender and pray that their death will be quick.”

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He was just about to say something when he discovered that the originally dusky sky had instantly become completely dark without any forewarning. Not long later, the screaming wild wind suddenly came sweeping down. Immediately, some of the people with weaker bodies were blown by the wild wind until their bodies began to sway. It frightened them until they hurriedly grabbed onto some of the things beside them.

The black-colored wind came sweeping down from the sky which was a dark mass. It was like a demon that seemed to open its huge mouth, ready to swallow anything that it met.

The convoy, which was connected to one another, was arranged such that it formed a circular shape, where the head and tail were connected; everyone hid within the circle. The weapons in their hands were firmly inserted into ground, firmly fixing their bodies just like nails.

A darkness, in which no one could not even see his fingers, shrouded everyone. Within the screaming wind, no one could sense whether there was anyone present beside them.

Xiao Yan half knelt on the ground. He violently inserted his Heavy Xuan Ruler into the ground and hid his body behind the enormous ruler’s body. He heard the crackling sound as the wind blew against the ruler’s body. His expression also changed a little. It was unexpected that the so called Black Storm was actually strong to this extent. Moreover, this was a small scale storm which Duo Ma had mentioned. If they were to meet something a little bigger, would it not directly sweep an entire person away?

The darkness and wild wind persisted for an unknowingly long time. During this time, Xiao Yan, who was within the darkness, suddenly knit his eyebrows slightly. He turned his head and turned his gaze toward a spot in a certain direction that he was not aware of. At that place, there seemed to be a strange red glow flashing. Moreover, there was a vague and fuzzy sound being transmitted from that spot.

Xiao Yan blinked his eyes and sensed the surrounding wild winds which appeared to display a trend of weakening. He hesitated for a moment and suddenly half-bent his body and quietly moved toward the fuzzy red glow.

The movement appeared to have persisted for a few minutes within the darkness before the strange red glow finally appeared in Xiao Yan's sight. He borrowed that slightly weak red glow and was somewhat stunned to realize that the body releasing the red-colored glow appeared to be a blurry human's form. Didn't the drifting appearance of it seemed to be similar to when Yao Lao appeared?

"Huh? This fellow actually has a spirit body? It is just that he seemed to be quite weak. A Dou Ling class. No! There seems to something hiding in the darkness. Little fellow, Do Not Move!" Suddenly, Yao Lao who had been caught in his silence seemed to have discovered something and hurriedly shouted.

Xiao Yan was stunned when he heard this. His body lay on the ground with a 'crack' and he dared not even release his breath.

"Who exactly are all of you? Why are you chasing after me? I don't seem to have formed a grudge with any of you!" The red-colored spiritual body swayed and moved within the wild wind. The current him was now facing the darkness of the storm. His face was somewhat distorted and afraid.

"Jie Jie (ha ha)"

A laughter that gave people the creeps suddenly sounded from within the darkness. Immediately, a black-colored chain abruptly shot out from within the darkness. It was like a black serpent and was extremely agile as it wrapped around the red-colored spirit body.

"Jie Jie." That energy chain, which appeared to be agglomerated from an

extremely strange energy, had just touched the red-colored spirit body when waves of white smoke began to seep out of the latter's body. A sharp, miserable cry immediately sounded. However, regardless of how the spirit body struggled, he even summoned a kind of red-colored flame in the end, he still had no solution to deal with that black-colored chain. In the end, he could only see his own spirit becoming increasingly weaker with his own eyes before finally being wrapped by a black light that was spat out from the chain.

“Jie Jie, no matter how great or strong you were when you were alive, as long as you have become a spirit body, you are a hunting target for our ‘Hall of Souls’.”

The awful laughter gradually became distant in the darkness until it completely disappeared.

On the grass in the darkness, Xiao Yan had nearly completely shielded his breathing. Cold sweat drenched his clothes. He did not expect that he would meet the mysterious organization that was chasing after Yao Lao within this Black Storm. Moreover, the thing that caused Xiao Yan to feel shock was that the mysterious person earlier did not even need to reveal his body when he captured a Dou Ling class spirit body with the latter unable to put up any resistance. Was this kind of strength not too terrifying?

Chapter 386: Black Mark City

Xiao Yan laid on the grass as the wild wind screamed all around him. He did not dare to move his body even a little, fearing that the mysterious thing hidden within the darkness had yet to leave, and instead would suddenly become violent and kill people.

There was no concept of time within the darkness. Just when a thread of impatience rose within Xiao Yan's heart, a wisp of sunlight suddenly shone into the darkness. That scene was like an egg without even the slightest gaps being gently cracked open. Warm sunlight expelled the darkness within.

Following the appearance of the first thread of sunlight, numerous rays of sunlight began pouring in. That howling wild wind also gradually weakened until it finally disappeared.

Xiao Yan eyed the sky, which had become slightly brighter, before sighing in relief within his heart. He carefully climbed up and glanced all around him. He immediately saw the merchant group, which was already beginning to get everything in order, just a few hundred meters away. Immediately, he hurriedly opened his stride and hurried over.

When Xiao Yan was about to approach the merchant group, he was able to see that joyful plum face of Duo Ma.

"Mister Yao Yan, are you alright? I was really anxious when I could not find you earlier." Duo Ma took a few steps forward and said with a relieved sigh.

"I'm fine. Just now, I was a little careless and was blown some distance away." Seeing the joy on Duo Ma's face, Xiao Yan smiled and shook his head. Although the reason for this fatty being so anxious was because of his strength, he was considered somewhat more normal compared to some of the people in the 'Black-Corner Region'.

"You were blown away? Then Mister Yao Yan is really lucky. If it was someone who was unlucky, he would definitely lose his way within these great plains." Duo Ma rejoiced and spoke with a grin when he heard this,

“Mister Yao Yan, please board the carriage first. I need to arrange the goods here that have been disbursed by the wind before we can continue the journey.”

Xiao Yan nodded his head. He eyed the mercenary group, which had already begun packing, and did not say anything. He once again got into the horse carriage and sat cross-legged. His heart, however, let out a long sigh. A shock still remained in his lowered eyes. He muttered in his heart: “Is that the strength of the ‘Hall of Souls’? They are indeed terrifying.”

“Ah, but it isn’t completely as you have seen. I already told you last time that the ‘Hall of Souls’ has techniques that are specially used to deal with spiritual bodies. Moreover, spiritual bodies are unable to use Dou Qi. Some of those spirits who possesses unique flames and have refined them into ‘Life Flame’ are a little better off. Back then, when I met with the people from the ‘Hall of Souls’, I relied on the ‘Bone Chilling Flame’ in order to successfully escape. Otherwise, my ending might have well been quite similar to the fellow whom you just happened to meet.” Yao Lao’s voice slowly sounded.

“I think that the attacking techniques that was used seems to be detached from the boundary of Dou Techniques and Dou Qi.” Xiao Yan said somewhat hesitantly as he recalled the bizarre black-colored chain. This was because he knew that while spiritual bodies may not be able to use Dou Qi, the damage Dou Qi can cause them is also similarly weakened. However, when that chain wrapped around that red-colored spiritual body, it was like fire meeting a piece of ice. The reaction was so intense that it left people speechless.

“Ah, when I came into contact with them back then, I also had this kind of feeling. However, I didn’t have the opportunity to observe it in greater detail. Now that I think about it, their attacking methods are really somewhat different from an ordinary person’s. I’m afraid that this is also ultimately why the spiritual bodies are like babies in their hands, without much ability to resist.” Yao Lao voiced his thoughts.

“However, you also need not worry about this now. As long as I appear as little as possible, they should not be able to find our position within

such a short period of time. What you currently need to do is to try to raise your strength before they discover us! Otherwise, that person from earlier will be a predecessor whose fate we will share.” Yao Lao said gravely.

“Ah.” After this encounter within the Black Storm, the urgency that Xiao Yan felt had become much more intense. Moreover, seeing that fellow’s peculiar attacking method also caused him to be a little worried. After all, the things which he did not know were the most frightening.

“However, we can perhaps stop over at the ‘Black Mark City’ for one day. The auction fair there should have the things that you need. Moreover, the auction fair of the ‘Black-Corner Region’ is not something that those in the Jia Ma Empire could compare with. Taking a look would be an eye-opener. However, do you have sufficient money with you? In the ‘Black-Corner Region’ one would have difficulty moving even an inch if they did not have any money.” Yao Lao smiled as he spoke.

“Ah, it seems that I still have over a hundred thousand gold coins. These are the dividends from the sale of the healing medicine in Wu Tan City back then.” Xiao Yan was at a loss when he heard this before replying.

“Over a hundred thousand?” Yao Lao was somewhat speechless as he helplessly said, “It is just sufficient to allow you to continue living within the ‘Black-Corner Region. However, you can forget about going to auction for anything if you are thinking of doing so.”

Xiao Yan rubbed his head with embarrassment as he bitterly laughed, “If that is really not possible, we can go and buy some medicinal ingredients to refine some medicinal pills to auction off. I have never heard of an alchemist being short on money to spend.”

“We can also auction out some ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ or perhaps that ‘Fire Lotus Seeds’. If these things were placed in the ‘Black-Corner Region’, they can also cause quite the sensation. When that time comes, I’m afraid that there would be countless number of strong people who practice fire affinity Qi Methods to fight for them.” Yao Lao spoke with a smile.

“That’s not possible. The ‘Amethyst Lion Birth Essence’ is the food

which the 'Heaven Swallowing Python' loves the most. If I don't have it, that small thing will definitely not listen to me. What will become of me then? There are also only eleven 'Fire Lotus Seeds'. Moreover, I have consumed one of them during this period of time. Even I myself resent the fact that there isn't enough of them, what's more taking it out to sell." Xiao Yan rolled his eyes and muttered.

"I think I will refine some medicinal pills to auction off. Currently, I am, at any rate, also an alchemist who can refine a tier four medicinal pill. I think that even in this 'Black-Corner Region', a tier four alchemist will not be like cabbage, where one can grab a bundle in one go." Xiao Yan curled his lips and said.

"Cabbage? To think that you can even think of that? With your status as a tier four alchemist, you would be treated as a VIP if you randomly joined any faction. Moreover, your treatment would definitely not be poorer than that of a Dou Wang." Yao Lao ridiculed.

"Hee hee, that's even better." Xiao Yan snickered. When he heard the sound of footsteps appearing outside the carriage door, he ceased conversing with Yao Lao and closed his eyes and hung his head, much like an old monk meditating.

Ever since they had experienced that Black Storm, this convoy of Duo Ma did not experience any more trouble. Around noon on the second day, some lush green color finally began to appear at the edge of the monotonous black-colored plain. When they saw the dispersed green color, the experienced guards could not resist heaving a sigh of relief. As long as they exited the great plain, they would be much safer. After all, the cities were dominated by different, powerful factions. As long as they handed these factions sufficient wealth, they would at least not end up in a miserable state where their goods were stolen and their entire group being killed. These factions were not foolish enough to do something like killing a chicken to get its egg.

TL: Taking a lot of profit at one time instead of slowly getting it.

Of course, nothing was for certain. Otherwise, the 'Black-Corner Region'

would not conform with its reputation of being the most chaotic region within the Dou Qi continent.

Xiao Yan pulled aside the curtain of the horse carriage from within and eyed the merchant group which was slowly exiting the black-colored plains. He also sighed in relief.

“Ke ke, it is fortunate that we did not meet those brutal dark bandits this time around. I have managed to preserve my goods and there was no one wounded or killed. I can really save a lot of compensation money this trip.” A smile, as though he had released a heavy weight, surfaced on Duo Ma’s plump face. Transporting goods on the Great Plains of the Dark Region was no different from hanging one’s head on one’s belt. If one was unlucky, one would end up losing his life. After all, it was not easy to earn money in this ‘Black-Corner Region’.

“That’s right, Mister Yao Yan, this is your reward. Although it does not match your value as a Da Dou Shi...” Duo Ma took out a bag of gold coins from his chest pocket and handed it over to Xiao Yan while he said with a bitter smile.

“Without Mister Duo Ma leading the way, I’m afraid that even if I walked for another ten days, it would be difficult for me to find my way out of the Great Plain of the Dark Region. This money is already more than enough.” Xiao Yan did not arrogantly reject the other party’s reward. He received the gold coins and weighed it in his hand. From its weight, it appeared to be around five thousand gold coins or so.

“Mister Yao Yan, thank you very much.” Duo Ma nodded his head in thanks. He immediately handed over the detailed map from his chest pocket over. In a soft voice, he said, “I think that for a new person who has just entered the ‘Black-Corner Region’, this is the most valuable reward.”

Xiao Yan’s eyes narrowed and slowly nodded, but he did not reject it.

“Ke ke, Mister Yao Yan, I see that you are quite young and your strength is already this strong. I think that your training talent is not bad. However, you must always be careful when walking in the ‘Black-Corner Region’. It would be best if you do not allow others to easily see that you are a new

person who has just entered the 'Black-Corner Region'. Otherwise, you will end up attracting a lot of unnecessary trouble." Dou Ma laughed softly.

"I will heed your warnings."

After the convoy walked out of of Great Plains of the Dark Region, they gradually reduced their speed. They hurried through a mountain road for another two hours before they finally passed by a mountain in the afternoon. At the foot of the mountain, the vague outline of an enormous city, that was formed by piling large black rocks, partially appeared. At the four city gates, one could vaguely see tiny black dots which were like ants being gathered together and swarming the city's huge, dark entrance.

"Ke ke, Mister Yao Yan, this is the 'Black Mark City'. Due to the auction fair that will be held within these two days, many factions and strong people from nearby will hurry over. After all, there will always be a unique object as a main attraction in each year's auction fair. It is rumored that the object which dominated the auction fair last year was a scroll containing a Di class Dou Technique. Back then, various factions from all over had nearly started a fight at this auction fair in order to obtain it. If it were not for the great strength backing the organizer, it would most likely have directly turned into a comedy." Duo Ma stood on the horse carriage and eyed the city at the foot of the mountain while speaking smile to Xiao Yan off to the side.

"Di class Dou Technique." The corner of Xiao Yan's mouth twitched involuntarily when he heard this. The place was indeed one where stolen goods and unique treasures flowed through this lawless region. It would basically be impossible to see a Dou Technique of this class within the Jia Ma Empire.

"Let's go." Duo Ma waved his hand and the convoy began whizzing downward. All throughout the way, they carried wisps of yellow dust as they dashed toward the enormous city at the foot of the mountain.

"Hopefully, it will not disappoint me." Xiao Yan watched the city which was gradually being enlarged in his sight as he softly muttered. His heart

was curious and held some expectations.

Chapter 387: Xiao Yan in Financial Distress

The convoy whizzed down from the mountain peak. Ten minutes later, they approached the dark, black city gate. Their speed gradually slowed before they finally queued behind the long line of people and quietly waited for their turn to enter the city.

Standing in front of the horse carriage, Xiao Yan lifted his head and studied the dark mass that was the enormous city wall. His gaze swept across the three large words 'Black Mark City' which had been placed right in the middle of the city gate. Moving his sight slowly downward, he finally paused on the ten plus darkly-dressed men at the city gate. They appeared to be the guards of a city in the outside world. However, in this place, anyone who wanted to enter had to hand over quite a large amount of city entrance fees. It should be known that if this kind of city entrance fees were placed in the environment like the Jia Ma Empire, it would likely directly cause a commotion. However, in the 'Black-Corner Region', something like this was commonplace.

"Get lost, stop leaping around in front of me." Just as Xiao Yan was observing the city which had a special serving of the 'Black-Corner Region', a curse, which was filled with irritation, suddenly sounded at a spot not far in front of him. Xiao Yan shifted his gaze. It was actually a bald, large man. Perhaps it was because he was impatient from all the waiting, but he lifted a skinny, weak-looking man in front of him with a grab of his palm.

"Ah." The words of the bald headed large man had just fell when the skinny, weak-looking man who had been lifted by him abruptly turned around. A dagger was swiftly pulled out from his sleeve. The dagger drew out a cold glint and violently stabbed toward the throat of the bald headed large man. However, it was fortunate that the latter's reaction was nimble. His neck hurriedly pulled back and the the dagger was misaligned and pierced at a spot half an inch below the throat. Immediately, fresh blood

soared wildly and a sharp, horrible shriek sounded from the mouth of the bald, large man.

After seriously wounding the bald, large man with one strike, the skinny weak looking young man swayed his body and he was like a loach as his body contracted and withdrew out of his clothes. After which, he rolled into some bushes by the side and disappeared.

“Bastard. I will kill you!” The bald headed large man’s eyes were crimson as he pulled out the dagger. He lost his sense of reasoning as he also charged into the bushes. A long while later, a scream that was similar to the horrifying shriek from earlier was transmitted out from the bushes. It was a long while later before it gradually disappeared.

Xiao Yan stood on the frame of the carriage and was somewhat stunned as he watched the bushes. When he heard that final blood-curling scream, he knew that the bald headed large man would have difficulty keeping his life. However, what caused him to be stunned was that bald head large man’s strength should be around that of a two star Dou Shi while that skinny weak looking man was only at the Dou Zhe class. The gap between the two was this great, yet that skinny, weak-looking man’s murderous blow was actually so crisp and there was not even the slightest bit of hesitation. This kind of vicious scheming really left one speechless. People who could survive within the ‘Black-Corner Region’ were indeed no ordinary characters. It was only now did Xiao Yan truly understand this saying.

“Ke ke, Mister Yao Yan, do not judge a book by its cover in this ‘Black-Corner Region’. This is because the corpses of those who have died in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ because of underestimation could nearly fill an entire city.” Duo Ma smiled as he spoke.

“Ah.” Xiao Yan nodded slightly. The scene which he had witnessed with his own eyes allowed him to completely understand the rules of the ‘Black-Corner Region’.

The fight between the two people earlier was like a short interlude and merely gave the people who were queuing up some entertainment.

However, there was hardly anyone who wasted any emotion over this.

The queue slowly moved forward. After waiting for nearly half an hour, it was finally the convoy's turn. When the convoy reached the city gate, Duo Ma handed over a large bag of gold coins in an extremely swift manner. Xiao Yan's eyes were sharp. He could clearly see that there was a small bag hidden in Duo Ma's hand when the latter handed over the large bag of gold coins.

That indifferent black-clothed man received the gold coins and carelessly weighed it in his hands. His expression was a little gentler, but he did not say anything unnecessary. He waved his hand and allowed Duo Ma's merchant group into the city.

"Ke ke, Mister Yao Yan, where do you plan to go next?" After entering the city, Duo Ma's convoy stopped and he inquired along with a smile.

"I plan to walk around the city. Oh right, may I know where I can find the largest number of medicinal ingredients in 'Black Mark City'?" Xiao Yan leaped down from the horse carriage, lifted his head, and asked.

"Medicinal ingredients huh? That will naturally be the 'Thousand Medicine Place'. As long as you have a sufficient amount of money, you will be able to purchase rare medicinal ingredients that one would have difficulty finding outside of this place." Duo Ma smiled as he replied.

"Ah, thank you very much. Since it's like this, let's part ways here. We will chat in the future if we have the chance." Xiao Yan cupped his hands toward Duo Ma. He did not wait for the latter to say any courteous words he turned his body and squeezed into the human flow. After which he disappeared.

"Yes, hopefully we can really meet again. However, among the people who die in the 'Black-Corner Region' every year, the number of deaths among the new people is the highest. This is especially so for those young people who have some strength. They are filled with youthful energy and do not know how to hide their edge, clearly looking like they will have a short life. However, this little fellow is much better. If his methods were even more vicious, he might really be able to adapt to this kind of place

and make a name for himself.” As he eyed Xiao Yan’s back which had disappeared, Duo Ma laughed bitterly before waving his hand and led the convoy toward another street.

Xiao Yan slowly walked along the street. His gaze repeatedly swept across the shops on the two sides of the street. However, what really caused Xiao Yan to be speechless was that before he had finished walking this short street, which was not even a hundred meters long, he had seen no less than ten brawls. There were even situations like drawing one’s knife to have a bloody fight. With regards to this kind of city, there was only one word to appropriately describe it. That was : Chaotic!

Xiao Yan avoided some bloody all out fights, and passed through two street corners. He walked for nearly twenty minutes before his scanning gaze finally stopped on the signboard of a shop which occupied a wide space. Written on that pale-red signboard were three large, ancient-looking words, ‘Thousand Medicine Place’.

“This should be the place, right?” Xiao Yan softly muttered in his heart. He increased his speed and walked into this medicinal shop with an extraordinary atmosphere. Immediately, the mixture of over a hundred different medicinal scents pounced over, causing him to involuntarily have an impulse to sneeze.

The size within the medicinal shop was big. Crystal counters were placed vertically and horizontally within the shop. There were different kinds of medicinal ingredients being placed within the transparent counters. At this moment, there were quite a number of people who had paused their footsteps in front of these counters. The noisy chattering sound repeatedly reverberated within the shop.

Xiao Yan’s footsteps slowly ferried him toward the crystal counters. His gaze swept across its interior and surprise flashed across his eyes. It was just as Duo Ma had said. The medicinal ingredients within this ‘Thousand Medicine Place’ were indeed difficult to find in the outside world. He really did not know how they managed to get such a large amount of unique medicinal ingredients.

Xiao Yan sighed in surprise as he shook his head. His gaze swept across the prices indicated below the medicinal ingredients and involuntarily became stunned. A high ranked 'Wood Spirit Three-Pin Flower' may be rare in the outside world, but its selling price was at most around fifty thousand gold coins. However, the price here was raised by nearly three times that amount.

"One hundred and seventy thousand for one. These fellows might as well go and rob others directly." Xiao Yan was speechless as he shook his head. With his current fortune, it appeared that he could not even afford to buy one 'Wood Spirit Three-Pin Flower'.

Xiao Yan laughed bitterly. His gaze once again slowly swept over the crystal counter. A long while later, he stood at the final counter with a somewhat numb expression. From his observation earlier, he had indeed found all the medicinal ingredients to refine one 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill'. However, after his calculations, if he were to purchase all of these medicinal ingredients, he would need at least one hundred and seventy thousand gold coins.

"Unscrupulous shop ah, unscrupulous shop. It would be good if Old Hai were here. With him being the great-Elder of the Primer clan, it would definitely not be a problem taking out this amount of money." Xiao Yan softly muttered in his mouth. Xiao Yan suddenly felt a little distressed. In the past, he had never bothered about matters related to money. Now, he actually began to be vexed over money when he had just entered the 'Black-Corner Region'.

"Teacher, what do we do now?" In his helpless state, Xiao Yan could only smile bitterly and ask in his heart.

"Hee hee, I have already told you that you will have difficulty moving even an inch within the 'Black-Corner Region' if you don't have money." Yao Lao teased, "What else can you do? If you don't want to exchange items, then you should first forget about that 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill'. Use your remaining money to buy two sets of medicinal ingredients to refine 'Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill'. After which, go to the auction house and auction off the medicinal pills which you have refined.

Otherwise, you will definitely be unable to obtain those medicinal ingredients.”

“Ah, we can only do this.” Xiao Yan sighed and began to turn around to search for the medicinal ingredients to refine the ‘Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill’. It was fortunate that the ‘Three-Lines Green Spirit Pill’ was a tier four medicinal pill. Therefore, the medicinal ingredients that it required were far less costly than what was needed to refine the ‘Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill’.

“Oh that’s right, I have almost forgotten to tell you an important matter. Although this matter will compound the problem that you have on your already poor finances.” Yao Lao gloatingly said with a smile, causing Xiao Yan to feel a little uneasy.

“Since you plan on getting your hands on that ‘Fallen Heart Flame’, you will need to complete all the necessary preparation work just like when you swallowed the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ back then.” Yao Lao smiled before continuing, “When you swallowed the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’, you relied on the protection of the ‘Blood Lotus Pill’ in order to greatly increase your chances of success. However, that ‘Fallen Heart Flame’ is ranked fourteenth on the ‘Heavenly Flame Ranking’. That is far stronger than the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’ which is ranked nineteenth. Therefore, your preparation this time around must be even more complete.”

“Ugh, I had almost nearly forgotten about that.” Xiao Yan was startled before he immediately came to a sudden comprehension. If it was not for the assistance of the ‘Blood Lotus Pill’ the last time he swallowed the ‘Green Lotus Core Flame’, there would have been no certainty in whether or not he would finally succeed.

“Then what do we need to prepare this time around?” Xiao Yan asked uncertainly.

“A tier six medicinal pill, Ground Spirit Pill. Not many medicinal ingredients are needed to refine it. There are only four of them. Flame Core Ganoderma, Asparagus Ice Fire Fruit, Green Wood Celestial Vine, and a rank 6 water type Monster Core.”

The faint words caused Xiao Yan's moving footsteps to suddenly falter. The corner of his mouth twitched slightly. Even not mentioning the three medicinal ingredients' name, which he had never even heard of, just the very last one was sufficient to give him an impulse to act in a flustered and exasperated manner. A rank 6 monster core? Did he need to go and kill a rank 6 super powerful Magical Beast which could contend with a Dou Huang? Even if he wanted to seek death, he need not use such a method, no?

Chapter 388: Alleviating Poverty Through Refining Pills

After walking out from the 'Thousand Medicine Place', Xiao Yan lifted his head and eyed the somewhat dusky sky. He let out a long sigh. From this moment on, he had formally become a member of the impoverished clan. Four sets of medicinal ingredients to refine the 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' not only completely exhausted all of his one hundred and thirty thousand gold coins, but also got him to take out a total of three bottles or twenty-seven 'Energy Recovery Pills' in order to successfully receive the medicinal ingredients from an astonished attendant. One should clearly know that according to its market value, the 'Energy Recovery Pill' could be sold for over five thousand gold coins apiece. If these twenty seven pieces were sold together, it would cost at least more than a hundred thousand gold coins.

"I am so poor that I'm practically a beggar... hopefully I will not destroy them when refining. Otherwise, I am afraid that I will really have to take out the 'Amethyst Lion Birth Essence' to sell." Xiao Yan laughed bitterly. Although he purchased four sets of the medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill', it was impossible to achieve a one hundred percent success rate with his current ability. Moreover, if he succeeded in two out of the four chances, he would be able to make a profit in this transaction. The problem, however, was that he did not dare be certain that he could maintain such a high success rate. Back then, in the Alchemist Grand Meeting within the Jia Ma Empire, it was likely that he could not refine the highest grade 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' if he had not relied on some luck. However, who could guarantee that this kind of good luck would always accompany him?

Xiao Yan turned around and eyed the horizontal signboard of the 'Thousand Medicine Place'. He gritted his teeth and cursed 'unscrupulous shop' before brushing his sleeves and storming off into the street to begin searching for a quiet place where he could to refine pills.

He slowly walked along the street for over ten minutes before stopping outside of an inn. He hesitated briefly before walking into it.

Within a small, quiet room, Xiao Yan first took out the medicinal ingredients he had bought earlier and placed them on the table one at a time. As he took them out, he softly said, "It is fortunate that I did not reject the compensation that Duo Ma had given me earlier. Otherwise, I wouldn't even have enough money to stay at an inn. This life that I am living... tsk tsk... is really too shabby."

After Xiao Yan took out all of the medicinal ingredients, he finally took out a medicinal cauldron, which was not of a very high tier. Once he completed this action, he clapped his hands and smiled bitterly as he said, "Looks like there is going to be a big fight... forget it, just treat it as a warmup."

Xiao Yan flicked his finger gently and a wisp of green-colored flame surfaced on the tip of his finger. It immediately shot into the flame outlet of the medicinal cauldron. Immediately, the green-colored flame seedling transformed into a raging flame which rose and burned within the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan eyed the rising green-colored flame, and inhaled a deep breath. He suppressed the various emotions within his heart and his long finger appeared to be twisting the flowers and picked a leaf as it flashed past the table's surface. One by one, the medicinal ingredients drew an arc as they were thrown into the medicinal cauldron. In an instant, they turned into powder.

Within the quiet room, the green-colored flame danced around within the medicinal cauldron like a fairy. The sparks reflected from the walls made threatening gestures and appeared very imposing.

The medicinal ingredients were thrown into the medicinal cauldron one at a time. Various different colored medicinal powders slowly agglomerated, and finally began to show a trend of merging under the grilling of the flame.

One hour later.

Xiao Yan eyes stared intently at the embryonic form of the medicinal pill that was partially visible within the medicinal cauldron. He took out a purple-colored Danwan from within the storage ring and swiftly squeezed it into his mouth. He chewed slightly and the seal on his hand suddenly changed. Within the medicinal cauldron, one could see that the green-colored flame instantly retreated. At the same time, Xiao Yan opened his mouth, and spat out a purple-colored flame which swarmed into the medicinal cauldron.

TL: Danwan/Yaowan – a sort of pill that has no medicinal properties and can be potentially harmful if consumed

“Bang.” The Purple Flame had just entered the medicinal cauldron when Xiao Yan’s expression changed slightly. A soft, muffled sound immediately sounded and a pile of black-colored soot slid out from the bottom of the medicinal cauldron.

“Che, failed.” Xiao Yan helplessly shook his head as he observed the pile of black-colored ashes.

“You were too anxious when the medicinal pill was merging. You were also impatient during the changing of the flame. If you refine the medicine in such a manner, your chances of success will not even be twenty or thirty percent.” Yao Lao faint voice sounded within Xiao Yan’s heart. He was direct and to the point when he pointed out the mistakes that Xiao Yan made when refining earlier.

Xiao Yan quietly nodded his head. He did not find any words to explain himself. Instead, he quietly stood in front of the medicinal cauldron for two minutes and inhaled a deep breath of air. The emotion from his failure earlier was instantly and completely expelled from his mind. His face contained no joy or sorrow. He waved his hand and another wisp of green-colored flame shot into the medicinal cauldron.

Xiao Yan’s mind was tranquil. A green-colored flame was dancing within his dark black eyes. His long hand slowly moved away from the surface of the table before making a sudden motion. Instantly, the medicinal ingredients were once again swept into the medicinal cauldron.

The refining continued quietly within the silent, small room. After nearly another hour had passed, Xiao Yan's somewhat squinted eyes suddenly widened. The seal in his hand was like a dancing butterfly, which was bright and beautiful. He widened his mouth abruptly and the Purple Flame shot into the cauldron while the green flame quietly dissipated.

A pale-green-colored spherical sleek medicinal pill rolled and rotated above the Purple Flame within the medicinal cauldron. The beautiful purple and green-colored Pill-Lines slowly appeared on the surface of the medicinal pill.

“Hu.”

Xiao Yan wiped the cold sweat from his forehead and gave a long sigh. He did not take another risk, and summon the 'Bone Chilling Flame', which belonged to Yao Lao. Although he would be able to cause the Green Spirit Pill to truly possess three lines if he was to succeed and raise its value greatly, the current him did not dare to guarantee that the addition of the last line would succeed in one attempt just like it had at the Alchemist Grand Meeting. The fortunes of the current him relied on this two lined 'Green Spirit Pill'. If he was not cautious and damaged it, that would really leave one speechless.

“With the value of the 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill', it might be able to be auctioned off for around four hundred thousand. A 'Three-Line Green Spirit Pill', on the other hand, can reach a high price of about six hundred thousand. The difference between them is nearly double.” Yao Lao's smiling voice, which carried some temptation, sounded.

TL: Yes, the author's math is kinda off.... Only kinda...

“Four hundred thousand can help to recuperate my capital.” The corner of Xiao Yan's eyes twitched as he forcefully controlled the temptation. He stored the medicinal pill into a jade bottle and sat cross-legged on the bed, which was off to the side, to rest for half an hour. After which, he stood up once again, moved to the side of the table and began to continue refining.

Xiao Yan was reduced to the small room for the entire afternoon as he refined the remaining medicinal ingredients. When the sky gradually

became dark, the medicinal ingredients on the table were finally completely refined. On the table, there were two small bottles, each storing a spherical pale-green medicinal pill. A faint medicinal fragrance was faintly seeping out of them, causing people to feel extremely relaxed.

The purple-colored flame was raging and burning within the medicinal cauldron. A pale-purple line had already appeared on the final Green Spirit Pill while it was being kept warm within the purple flame. Out of four sets of medicinal ingredients, he could possibly successfully refine three 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill'. This success rate was already so high that it would be somewhat shocking. Of course, if it were not for the extremely experienced Yao Lao instructing from behind and the effect of the 'Heavenly Flame', it was likely that Xiao Yan would not be able to achieve this success rate that would cause people to envious of regardless of how much talent they had in refining medicine.

The purple-colored flame slowly leaped within Xiao Yan's dark, black eyes. His pupils stared directly at the Green Spirit Pill, which was gradually finishing its warm and nourishing stage. He licked his lips gently as the corner of his eyes glanced at the two 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pills' on the table. Suddenly, his dark, black pupils became a little hotter.

"Hei, I knew that in the end, you would still lose patience and plan to refine a 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill'." Yao Lao appeared to clearly know what Xiao Yan was thinking as his mocking laughter resounded within Xiao Yan's heart.

"Hee hee. In any case, I have already refined two 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pills'. Even if this one were to fail, I will still have made a profit. A person should take some risks to make their life more exciting, no?" Xiao Yan parted his mouth and smiled. His finger gently tapped the black ring and a wisp of thick, white-colored flame seedling slowly rose.

When the thick, white-colored flame appeared, the temperature of the originally warm, small room fell greatly. Xiao Yan's expression slowly became grave. His Spiritual Strength wrapped around the white-colored flame and carefully tossed it into the medicinal cauldron. The purple-colored flame within it was driven away by another Spiritual Strength, and

withdrawn from the medicinal cauldron before quietly disappearing.

The white-colored flame entered just as the purple-colored flame was withdrawn. The control needed to operate the two at the same time was grasped by Xiao Yan, whose Spiritual Strength was completely focused, without any mistake. Even Yao Lao let out a soft 'ah' sound.

When the white-colored flame entered the medicinal cauldron, the medicinal cauldron actually gently trembled a couple of times under the sudden decline in temperature. A tiny crack line quietly expanded.

"Changing between cold and hot really does cause massive damage to a cauldron's durability. Next time I need to get a better medicinal cauldron if I have the time. Otherwise, I will be on tenterhooks every time I refine medicine in the future." The corner of Xiao Yan's eyes glanced at the tiny crack lines as he sighed and shook his head. However, his expression did not really pale at this moment. Under the precondition of controlling the flame properly, this medicinal cauldron was still able to support him until the medicinal pill was completely refined.

The thick, white flame was like a tiny, white snake within the medicinal cauldron as it shrouded the medicinal pill. Wisps of strange temperature separated by a gap slowly seeped into the medicinal pill. After which, a tiny white-colored Pill-Line began to gradually surface on the medicinal pill.

"Well, the control of the flame this time around was much better than last time." Yao Lao nodded and praised somewhat when he saw the tiny actions of the white-colored flame.

Xiao Yan's face was completely serious at the moment. Cold sweat repeatedly dripped down from his forehead. No matter how one put it, the 'Bone Chilling Flame' was a flame that did not belong to him. Therefore, it was extremely exhausting to try to control it. This resulted in the current him not daring to carelessly reply to Yao Lao. He was afraid that if he was even slightly distracted, the temperature of the flame would suddenly rise by a little and cause this 'Green Spirit Pill' to be completely ruined.

The final warming and nourishing stage continued for nearly half an

hour. When he saw that the white-colored Pill-Line on the pale-green medicinal pill had crept until it finished a full circle, Xiao Yan finally sighed in relief. A thought passed through his mind and the white-colored flame, which was wrapped by the Spiritual Strength, was swiftly withdrawn out of the flame outlet. He beckoned with his hand and the flame once again shrunk back into the dark, black ring.

Xiao Yan flipped his hand and a jade bottle appeared. An emerald-green medicinal pill shot out from the medicinal cauldron and finally stopped, suspended in front of Xiao Yan, before he stored it in the jade bottle with a smile.

“Two ‘Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill’ and one ‘Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill’. This is my seed money to get rich.” Xiao Yan wiped away the cold sweat that had accumulated on his forehead. He eyed the three jade bottles. The abundant gains pushed away most of the fatigue which filled his mind. After entering the ‘Black-Corner Region’, he finally knew just how short he was on money. Refining the ‘Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill’ required a large sum of money. Refining that so called ‘Ground Spirit Pill’ also required a lot of money. The sum of all these obligations really caused Xiao Yan to feel his head swell.

“Crack.” As Xiao Yan stored the jade bottles into his storage ring, a soft noise suddenly sounded from in front of him. Xiao Yan lifted his head to take a look. The crack line on the medicinal cauldron had gradually become bigger until the cauldron finally crumbled apart with a clear sound, turning into fragments which scattered all over the table.

Xiao Yan was somewhat speechless as he eyed the broken medicinal cauldron. He smiled bitterly and said, “There is also the money needed to buy another medicinal cauldron.”

“Ah, for now, I should first go to the auction house.”

Chapter 389: Black Mark Auction House

Xiao Yan stood at the end of the street where the human traffic was turbulent. He lifted his head, and watched the auction house in front of him, which was incomparably huge. His mouth could not resist releasing a shocked sigh. Back then, when he saw the auction house headquarters of the Primer clan in the Jia Ma Empire, he had felt somewhat shocked by its size. It was, however, unexpected that he would realize that the Primer Auction house was undoubtedly trivial when compared to this auction house, which was also called 'Black Mark', now that he had arrived at Black Mark City.

There were over ten indifferent-faced, black-clothed powerful men, who carried sharp weapons on their waist, outside the Black Mark Auction House. Their gazes, which were as sharp as eagles, repeatedly swept across the human flow coming and going. From the faint presence that was seeping out from the bodies of these men, five of them were actually of the Dou Shi class, while the rest were around the peak of the Dou Zhe level.

There were already people at the Dou Shi class among those they had carelessly ordered to guard the entrance. It appeared that the strength of this 'Eight Gates' was really strong. At the very least, the Primer clan would be reluctant to use Dou Shi practitioners to guard the doors.

A large black robe was tightly wrapped around Xiao Yan's body as he slowly lowered his head. The shadow of the Doupeng completely covered his face. In the 'Black-Corner Region', this utterly chaotic place, he did not think that carelessly exposing his appearance was a wise decision.

TL: Doupeng – a conical bamboo hat with a cloth hanging down from its tip, covering one's face

Xiao Yan followed the flow of humans and slowly walked into the auction house. The vast space within it caused him to once again become momentarily absent minded. He immediately recovered and his footsteps ferried him to the middle of the hall.

An enormous screen was hung on the surroundings within this auction house, scrolling through a countless number of items, which were being sold in this auction. Xiao Yan roughly glanced over it, but did not discover anything excessively rare. It was likely that these special items were used as things which would dominate the auction and were not displayed in order to maintain their secrecy. Of course, some of the factions, which were quite strong, would naturally be able to use other channels to inquire about the treasures which would dominate the auction.

Xiao Yan's gaze swept across his surroundings before finally stopping on a door leading to a room to inspect treasures. He hesitated a little before slowly walking into it.

As Xiao Yan's body entered the door into this so called 'Treasure Inspecting Room', he was somewhat stunned to realize that this somewhat big room was neatly divided into over a hundred smaller secret rooms. It was likely a preventive measure designed to prevent the treasures from being exposed.

Xiao Yan had just walked into this 'Treasure Inspecting Room' when a sexily clad female servant walked forward. Her feminine voice released an enchanting feeling, "This sir, are you here to inspect a treasure or are you here to perform a price evaluation to facilitate the auction?"

"The latter." Xiao Yan's purposefully suppressed his voice until it sounded somewhat hoarse.

"Please follow me." The female servant smiled enchantingly and turned around. Her water snake-like waist swayed and formed an extremely alluring arc. If one looked at it for too long, it would actually cause a nefarious flame to rise within one's lower abdomen. It appeared that the female servants here had undergone special training on how to increase their attractiveness to its limit in men's eyes.

Xiao Yan's gaze dangled within the shadows of the Doupeng. He ignored the female servant's seductive body. In the 'Black-Corner Region', which was an extremely chaotic place, even a woman who did not have the strength to tie a chicken could also cause a person to receive a great

shock. Therefore, Xiao Yan did not dare to think of having any interaction with the women here.

Xiao Yan followed behind the woman and walked dozens of meters before the latter finally stopped in front of a small secret room. She respectfully bowed to Xiao Yan and smiled as she said, "Mister, you can hand over the things you want to auction off to the grandmaster inside to evaluate and verify. After which, you will obtain a seat of a differing grade at the auction fair depending on how valuable the items you are trying to auction off are."

Xiao Yan nodded. He gently pushed open the black-colored wooden door and walked in. After which, he smoothly closed the door.

The light in the small room was bright. An old man, whose hair was somewhat white, was using his sharp gaze to inspect Xiao Yan. As the latter was entirely covered in a black robe, he had difficulty spotting anything eye-catching.

"Please have a seat." The old man carelessly pointed at a chair in front of him. He finished arranging some of the tools needed to inspect the items to be auctioned off before lowering his head and said faintly, "Take out the things that you want to auction out."

Xiao Yan remained silent. He did not speak as he waved his hand and three small jade bottles appeared on the table.

"Medicinal Pills?"

The old man was a little stunned when he heard the sound of the jade bottles colliding with the surface of the table. His gaze stopped on each of the three small jade bottles and a bizarre glint flashed across his eyes. He wore a pair of thin, transparent gloves and carefully picked up a jade bottle and tipped the jade bottle until the pale-green-colored spherical medicinal pill rolled out onto his palm. He placed it under his nose and sniffed, while his gaze paused on the green and purple Pill-Lines on the pill. He mused for a moment before his expression changed slightly. With a shocked voice, he said, "This is a 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill?'"

"Ah." Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His voice was still hoarse: "Since you

have heard of the 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill', I think that you should also know of its effect. Help me estimate the listing price."

"I need to examine it first." The old man shook his head. He then took out those strange and unique tools and began fiddling with the medicinal pill. After continuing like this for a long while, he finally stopped. His gaze had an additional bizarreness when he lifted his head back up to look at Xiao Yan. With a deeper meaning in his words, he said, "This is indeed a 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill. Moreover, its quality is quite high. Even an ordinary tier four alchemist would have difficulty creating a pill with this kind of quality."

"According to the method the 'Black-Corner Region' uses to estimate, the base price for this 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill' should be around three hundred thousand gold. If you take it out to auction and meet some rich and powerful factions competing with each other, it would not be difficult for you to auction it off for over five hundred thousand gold."

"Then take a look at this." Xiao Yan nodded slightly. This price was already higher than what he had estimated. Immediately, he pushed over the bottle which contained the 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill'.

"Oh?" The old man was slightly startled. He took the bottle and allowed the emerald-like spherical medicinal pill within to roll out. However, when his gaze swept across the three circular Pill-Lines on the pill's body, a seriousness finally appeared on his calm face. The difference between a 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill' and a 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' may merely be only one line, but their prices were like two different worlds.

A 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill' may have the effect of helping a Dou Shi break through the final barrier and advance, but it could only help one's strength increase by one or two stars. Moreover, the chances of receiving backlash was quite great. On the other hand, once one successfully consumed a 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill', not only could one break through the barrier, but one could also have one's strength suddenly rise by three stars. Of course, this was with the exception that the person taking the pill had purposely not been restricted their strength from rising. Back then, when Xiao Yan had consumed the 'Three-Lined Green

Spirit Pill', he purposefully deposited the medicinal effect within his body because he was afraid that his strength would rise too quickly, which would result in him losing precise control over his body. When the medicinal strength was activated later on, it once again caused his strength to soar. From this, one could see the clear difference between the 'Three-Lined' and 'Two-Lined' pills!

On this point, the old man who had seen countless treasures knew it very well. Thus, his face held an extra trace of curiosity and seriousness.

"Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill?" The old man scrupulously examined the emerald medicinal pill as he spoke in a stunned soft voice.

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded his head faintly.

"Excellent stuff." The old man smacked his mouth. Even though he was used to seeing treasures, he also gave such an evaluation. He hesitated a little before saying: "The base auction price of this 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' can be set at around seven hundred thousand. After undergoing competing bids, I think that it can be sold for about nine hundred thousand or so."

Xiao Yan quietly nodded his head. In his heart, he could not resist heaving a long sigh of relief. The sum of the values of these three 'Green Spirit Pills' would be nearly two million. This amount of money had really come in a frightening manner. No wonder being an alchemist was an occupation which did not lack money to spend. This kind of lucrative thing would really cause the other occupations to collapse from envy.

Of course, Xiao Yan also clearly knew that this kind of lucrative trade was built upon having sufficiently high chances of success. After all, when most alchemists refined medicinal pills, they would sometimes only succeed once every ten attempts. The ingredients needed to refine the 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' would add up to nearly sixty or seventy thousand gold coins. When that time came, even if they were successful once out of ten times, it was likely they would only manage to break even. After all, not all the alchemists in this world had the help of an extremely experienced Yao Lao, as well as a 'Heavenly Flame', both of which were

extremely great helps.

“Two ‘Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill’ and one ‘Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill’. Mister, the value of the things you want to sell in our auction has already reached a second class VIP grade of our ‘Black Mark Auction House’. This is your seat number. The auction fair will officially open this afternoon. When that time comes, please sit in your designated seat.” The old man carefully put the medicinal pills away and took out a card which was made of green-colored emerald from the counter, which he then handed over to Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan nodded his head as he received the emerald card. He inquired, “Can I leave now?”

“Ke ke, mister, please do as you wish.” The old man smiled as he replied after he had carefully returned the three ‘Green Spirit Pill’. Perhaps it was because of these pills, but his current attitude toward Xiao Yan was a little better.

Xiao Yan did not say any more nonsense after hearing this. He stood up and slowly walked toward the door, opened it, and walked out.

The old man eyed the door, which was slowly closing, and heard the footsteps gradually becoming distant. His finger gently knocked on the surface of the table. A long while later, he lowered his head, and eyed the three ‘Green Spirit Pills’, which had been stored properly. A strange expression flashed across his muddled old eyes.

“I have not seen this person before. To be able to take out three ‘Green Spirit Pill’ so easily, it is likely that he should be an alchemist. Moreover, his tier should not be low...” His hand tapped at a certain part of the table, and the wall of the secret room was suddenly and slowly pulled open, revealing a small, dark hole. The old man picked up the three ‘Green Spirit Pills’, turned around and walked into the hole. His soft voice muttering words that resounded quietly within the secret room.

“An alchemist who can refine a medicinal pill of a tier like the ‘Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill’ is also not commonly seen in the ‘Black-Corner Region’. I think that the Leader will be interested in such a person.”

Chapter 390: The Start of the Auction

Once he exited the Black Mark Auction House, Xiao Yan walked directly back to the inn he was staying at. He rested in his small room until it was about time for the auction to begin. Only then did he exit his training mode and put his large, black robe on, completely invigorated. He then left the inn at a steady pace, once again walking over to the auction ground.

When Xiao Yan arrived at the entrance of the auction house, the huge, nearly-packed, racketing crowd with noises that shot towards the sky, caused him to become slightly dull. He did not expect that the Great Auction Fair would actually attract so many people. It was indeed worthy of being called a grand event in the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Xiao Yan tried to squeeze through the human traffic before he withdrew somewhat helplessly. This 'Black-Corner Region' could not be compared with the Jia Ma Empire. If one cut the queue here, there would immediately be dozens of fists violently thrown over. After all, the temper of the people within the 'Black-Corner Region' was not as meek as those of the outside world. If they had any disagreement, drawing their knives and hacking at others was something that was a common sight.

Xiao Yan withdrew from the human flow, which was shouting non-stop. His gaze swept around him and immediately stopped on another pathway, other than the main entrance of the auction house. Compared to this place, the entrance was an entirely different scene. The spacious pathway was covered by a red-colored carpet and there were over ten black-clothed men with cold expressions stationed around the place. The domineeringly thick, dark presence faintly emitting from their bodies frightened the human crowd beside them until they dared not squeeze over. Therefore, this resulted in an empty area being formed on the pathway there.

When Xiao Yan's gaze swept over, he coincidentally saw a group of people walking onto the red-colored carpeted pathway. His gaze swept over this group of people, and finally stopped at a somewhat overly pale-looking, handsome, young man in the middle. From his outer appearance, his age seemed to be around twenty four or twenty five. However, from the

tiny undulation caused wisps of energy to be occasionally emitted from within his body, his strength was likely at least around the Dou Ling class!

“This person... his strength is quite good. Moreover, he is actually this young? Looks like this ‘Black-Corner Region’ is really a place where tigers and dragons are hidden.” Xiao Yan was somewhat surprised as he eyed the young man with a pale expression, while he muttered in his heart.

“Hei, look over there. It seems to be people from the Blood Sect?”

“They are indeed a group of overpowered fellows. That person in the middle should be the Junior Sect Leader, Fan Ling, right? Hee hee, it is said that the disappearance of an Elder of the ‘Eight Gates’ not long ago had something to do with him.”

“The blood of his entire body was dried, it seemed like his blood had been completely and forcefully drained by someone. Only the Blood Sect would be interested in such things. It is just that it was really unexpected that he actually still dares to come to the old nest of the ‘Eight Gates’.”

“What does he not dare to do? His father is a strong person ranked fifth on the ‘Black Ranking’. Yuan Yu is a great distance away from him. Moreover, the Blood Sect’s strength is greater than the ‘Eight Gates’. Would they dare touch Fan Ling here? Would they not be afraid that his father would bring people, and wash ‘Black Mark City’ away with blood in his anger?”

Xiao Yan came to a sudden realization as he heard the private conversations transmitted from the human flow. His gaze once again settled on the face of the young man, and remembered the faction called the ‘Blood Sect’ deep within his heart.

Seemingly having sensed a somewhat different gaze, the young man, who was about to enter the auction house, suddenly paused his footsteps. He tilted his head slightly and his extremely cold eyes, which were void of even the slightest emotion, glanced directly at Xiao Yan, whose entire body was hidden in a black robe, standing a short distance away. Immediately, he raised his eyebrows slightly, hesitated for a moment before entering the auction house while carrying some doubt between his brows.

“This ‘Black-Corner Region’ does not seem to have many normal people.” The young man’s thick, cold gaze caused Xiao Yan to have a certain feeling of being stared at by a blood sucking bat from within the darkness. He spread out his hands while laughing bitterly in his heart.

Not long after that group of people from the ‘Blood Sect’ entered the auction house, there were a few groups of people entering it soon after them. These people were, without exception, people from strong factions within the ‘Black-Corner Region’, judging by the private whispers around. This was really an eye-opener for Xiao Yan.

Xiao Yan eyed the empty and quiet carpeted pathway. He then eyed the main entrance, which was packed with people, and could not help feeling speechless.

“All they have is some broken VIP card. What’s there to be proud off. This ‘Eight Gates’ only has eyes for money. The old me at the very least auctioned things worth over fifty over thousand, but I don’t see them giving me one.” Just as Xiao Yan’s gaze was sweeping across the carpeted pathway, a skinny man by his side, who was similarly pushed out by the human flow, also looked at the carpeted pathway and involuntarily cursed softly. However, from his eyes, it appeared that he was clearly very jealous.

“VIP card?” Xiao Yan’s heart moved when he heard this. He also recalled that those people earlier seemed to have taken a card out from within their sleeves when entering the pathway. He rubbed his storage ring and an emerald card leaped out. Xiao Yan remembered that the old man at the ‘Treasure Inspection Room’ had said that this thing was a second grade VIP card, no?

“What are you looking at? Are you courting death?” Seemingly having sensed the gaze of Xiao Yan, who was wrapped in a black robe, thrown over, the skinny man immediately displayed a fierce expression and spoke ferociously.

Xiao Yan ignored this crazy fellow and directly walked toward the carpeted pathway under the latter’s stunned gaze.

“Chi, this fellow...” The skinny man curled his lips when he saw the

action of Xiao Yan. Earlier, he had also seen Xiao Yan squeezed out from the human flow. Therefore, he would naturally not think that this fellow, who was dressed so shabbily, would actually be able to possess a VIP card of this 'Black Mark Auction House'. After all, those who possessed the card were either from some faction that was quite strong, or those who had auctioned off over two million gold coins worth of goods to only barely obtain a third grade VIP card.

TL: VIP card grade – the lower the number the better e.g. first is better than second

Two million. For most people within the 'Black-Corner Region', this price was an enormous sum which one could hope for, but could never obtain. This point could be seen from how Xiao Yan had only obtained a five thousand gold coin reward for protecting Duo Ma all the way. Xiao Yan was a Da Dou Shi, yet his compensation was still so low. It should be known that a Da Dou Shi was worthy of starting a Clan in the Jia Ma Empire. In this world, it was not so easy to earn money. Otherwise, some Da Dou Shi, Dou Ling, or even Dou Wang within the 'Black-Corner Region' would not be able to swoop so low that had to become killers.

Of course, this was naturally excluding the alchemist, which was an occupation which caused people to be incomparably envious of. After all, the harsh inborn requirements of an alchemist had eliminated nearly ninety percent of the people to a point where they could only dream about it.

It was due to the reasons mentioned above that the skinny man quietly ridiculed Xiao Yan when he saw Xiao Yan's action. Of course, his ridicule did not persist for very long and his ferocious expression on his face descended into stiffness. This was because Xiao Yan had merely stopped for a short while on the carpeted pathway before he swaggered onto that incomparably soft red carpet.

"He has a VIP card and yet he is also here to squeeze? Does he have some problem?" The skinny man's eyes were somewhat red due to envy. This was especially when Xiao Yan turned his head around and looked in his direction after entering the auction ground. That skinny man was so

furious that he clawed at his head. He clearly sensed that there was a mocking gaze glaring at him under the black robe.

The lighting was a little dark when Xiao Yan entered the tunnel. He moved along the corridor until the end before he took a turn. Immediately, an incomparably large auction area appeared in Xiao Yan's sight, causing him to inhale a breath of cool air.

This auction ground was larger than any auction ground that Xiao Yan had seen in his life. The packed seats and that auction platform, which seemed to be made completely out of bright crystals, caused people to be dazzled.

"Mister, may I inquire what is your seat number?" Just as Xiao Yan was a taking in the view, a beautiful female servant walked over quickly and asked respectfully.

Xiao Yan did not reply. He directly handed over the emerald card. When that female servant saw the color of the card, a bizarre glint flashed across her eyes. Her attitude became much more respectful. With a slight bow, she gently said, "Mister, you have a second grade VIP card. Please follow me."

Once she finished saying this, the female servant hurriedly led the way, while Xiao Yan swayed leisurely close behind.

The female servant shuttled within the enormous auction ground for nearly ten minutes before she stopped at an area close to the crystal auction platform. She pointed at a seat and smiled at Xiao Yan before bowing and then withdrawing.

Xiao Yan walked up to the spacious and exquisitely plush seat before sitting down. The soft feeling nearly caused his body to have the impulse to curl up within it. Xiao Yan turned around and eyed the ordinary chairs behind. He involuntarily inhaled a breath of air once again. This was a privilege, a privilege that was born of money.

As he sat on the chair, Xiao Yan's eyebrow suddenly twitched. He lifted his head and his gaze swept to a row of seats not far in front of him. He could see that the Junior Sect Leader of the 'Blood Sect', Fan Ling, who had

appeared at the entrance earlier, was looking at him with a somewhat strange gaze.

Xiao Yan's brows, under the shadows, were slightly knit together. He ignored him and directly closed his eyes, quietly waiting for the auction to begin.

"Junior Sect Leader, what is it?" The pale-faced, handsome young man slowly withdrew his gaze. On his side, a similarly pale-faced old man asked softly.

"Nothing, it is just that I feel that fellow is somewhat strange. Moreover, when I see him, I actually feel a strange fear within my heart." When he spoke to this point, Fan Ling laughed mockingly as he shook his head.

"Ke ke, Junior Sect Leader should have sensed wrongly. Although our Blood Sect's Qi Technique is extremely dark and cold and is naturally fearful of some extreme flames, there are not many people in the entire 'Black-Corner Region' who are in possession of a flame of that kind of class." The old man said with a laugh.

"Perhaps." The young man nodded. The few people who possessed that kind of flame were strong people at the peak within the 'Black-Corner Region'. This black-robed person, on the other hand, was clearly not among them. Immediately, he ceased having wild thoughts and his gaze was thrown toward the crystal platform. With a soft voice, he muttered, "I wonder if the news is really true. If it is really so, father has said that we must obtain it at all cost."

"Hee hee, Junior Sect Leader, you can be rest assured that the Sect Leader has already quietly made all the preparations. Even if that thing were to fall into someone else's hands, he would not be able to walk more than five kilometers from the 'Black Mark City'!" The old man laughed darkly.

"That would be good." A dark, cold arc formed on the young man's face. He also gradually closed his eyes and quietly waited for the auction to begin.

While Fan Ling had his eyes closed, a few factions not far away from them were quietly whispering among themselves. If one could hear their

conversations, one would discover something in common, which was that all their conversations involved a certain mysterious object. Moreover, this object appeared to be the final item to be auctioned off at the auction fair!

Around half an hour after Xiao Yan had closed his eyes, a clear 'gong' slowly resounded within the auction ground. Upon hearing this 'gong' sound, Xiao Yan withdrew from his training mode, and the noisiness swept over like some magical sound pouring into his mind, causing him to violently shake his head. Only then did he maintain his calm. He lifted his head and eyed the bright, crystal platform. At this moment, there was a white-haired old man who appeared to be an auctioneer already standing with a smile on it.

"It is finally about to begin." Xiao Yan softly muttered as he eyed the enormous ground, which appeared to be so crowded that it was completely packed. His dark, black eyes contained an obvious anticipation.

Chapter 391: Flying Dou Technique: Lightning Bat Sky Wings

The clear 'gong' slowly reverberated throughout the auction ground. Following the sound of the 'gong', the racket and noise in the ground also gradually receded. Countless number of gazes were thrown toward the crystal platform. Their eyes were all heated.

"Ke ke, I think that everyone here has waited until they are feeling a little impatient. Since that is the case, I shall not say any official or superficial words to annoy you." That white-haired old man, who was wearing fancy clothes, smiled as he eyed the dense mass of heads in the auction ground. Finally, his obscure gaze swept the factions seated in the front row. His loud and clear voice resounded throughout the place. As a very experienced auctioneer, he clearly knew that what those people below wanted to see and did not want to see. Therefore, his unnecessary introduction at the start was directly cast aside. Without a doubt, however, this action of the old man had indeed won cheers from the entire place. At the very least, even that dark, ice cold Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect also nodded slightly.

"As the annual Great Auction Fair begins, I think that this one, which our 'Eight Gates' has organized, will definitely not disappoint anyone." The old man gently clapped. He said in a clear voice, "I announce that the 'Black Mark City' Auction Fair begins now!"

As the old man's clear voice fell, an eye-piercing, intense light erupted from the crystal platform. It was a long while later before the intense light disappeared. On the auction platform in front of the white-haired old man, there was a longsword which was entirely blue, reflecting a thick, cold luster as the light reflected off of it. Seeing the energy traces flowing on its body, it was clearly a Monster Core weapon that a renowned blacksmith had meticulously created.

"This sword is named 'Cold Edge'. It is molded from cold metal and is said to be able to cut iron like one would cut soil. Moreover, it is perfectly

embedded with a rank three ice affinity Monster Core. If a person who practices water or ice affinity skills uses it to fight with an opponent, their strength will definitely be increased. Powerful magical weapons are something that one must bring when going out. If anyone is interested, do not be reluctant to spend the money in your bags. Money may be precious, but that is only on the precondition of one having the life to enjoy it, no? Ke ke.” The old man held the blue longsword in his hand. The body of the sword trembled and a faint, cold air rose, forming an indistinct white fog that was partially visible. He turned his head toward the auction ground and smiled as he said, “The base price is one hundred thousand. Everyone please.”

“A Monster Core Weapon, huh...” Xiao Yan muttered as he eyed that longsword. However, he was not too interested in it. The current him already had a weapon like the Heavy Xuan Ruler, where one made big motions with its attacks, having momentum that put pressure on others. He would really be a little unaccustomed if he was asked to change weapons to a narrow and elegant longsword. Therefore, he did not have any intention of participating in the bidding for this item. After all, he knew that the good things came at the end.

Of course, Xiao Yan’s lack of interest did not naturally mean that the other people would not be interested. For a Dou Zhe, a weapon that fitted one’s hand was like the medicinal cauldron in an alchemist’s hand. That was something used to make a living. Therefore, after the words of the white-haired old man fell, quite a number of bidding sounds repeatedly rang out through the auction ground.

The first bidding persisted for a couple of minutes before the sword was successfully auctioned off to a skinny, weak-looking man with an excited face for one hundred and fifty thousand gold coins.

After the first auction proceeded successfully, various different treasures, armors, Dou Skills, Qi Techniques, medicinal ingredients, etc., that caused people eyes’ to be dazzled, began to appear on the auction platform. There was even once when Xiao Yan was somewhat stunned as he watched a little beauty who was pushed onto the platform. She was not

very old, appearing perhaps around twenty two to twenty three years old. Her figure, however, had matured till it left one speechless. A small face, which was filled with timidness, could immediately stimulate the male desires of those men in the auction ground who massacred all the time. One by one, they turned into wolves. Finally, it actually ended up with a high price of nearly one hundred and thirty thousand, causing the white-haired auctioneer on the platform to part his mouth and smile.

Xiao Yan sat on the soft chair and indifferently watched those buffoons around him. He closed his eyes and waited for something that could arouse his interest.

During the auction fair, there were not too many unique items, which created an overly detonating atmosphere, appearing. Moreover, the people who were bidding were merely some people seated in the back. The strong factions in the front rows, who possessed a great amount of wealth, had yet to make a single bid up until now.

“Clang.”

Another clear ‘gong’ sound was transmitted from the crystal platform. The white-haired auctioneer was full of smiles as he received a small, silver plate from the hands of a female servant. There were two transparent small jade bottles on the silver plate. There was a green medicinal pill rolling around within each of the the jade bottles.

This medicinal pill attracted quite a number of gazes when it appeared. After all, the medicinal pill was something in great demand and on par with Qi Methods and Dou Techniques on this Dou Qi Continent. Moreover, some of those medicinal ingredients, which could be directly used to raise one’s strength, would cause a countless number of people to flock in droves.

“Ke ke, this medicinal pill is called the ‘Green Spirit Pill’. I think that there are quite a number of people who have heard of its name. It is able to help those people who have been hovering at the peak of the Dou Shi class for a long while to break through their barrier in one go. Moreover, these ‘Green Spirit Pill’ is of the ‘Two-Lined’ class. If one is lucky enough

after one consumes it, one might wildly soar two stars of strength.” The white haired auctioneer pointed at the medicinal pill in the bottle and smiled as he spoke.

The words of the auctioneer had just fell when commotion broke out on the auction ground. Countless people stared at the jade bottle on the silver plate with boiling hot eyes. This kind of medicinal pill, which could help people break through the barrier between classes, was merely something one might have the chance to see if one was lucky, but cannot hope to obtain even within the ‘Black-Corner Region’. Dou Shi and Da Dou Shi was merely the difference of only one word. However, only by stepping into the latter could one be truly considered to have reached the level when one had a foothold on the journey of training one’s Dou Qi. This crossing was basically an extremely great change. Therefore, there were countless number of people who had stopped at the peak of the Dou Shi class and had been unable to take that step forward for a long time.

However, these problems could be easily overcome by the ‘Green Spirit Pill’. It was due to this that even some of those huge faction in front also had some interest when the pill appeared. After all, a ‘Green Spirit Pill’ could groom one Da Dou Shi. Looking at it from a long term perspective, this business transaction was quite worthwhile. Although the strong people at the peak were the rulers in the ‘Black-Corner Region’, the Da Dou Shi class was a middle level pillar of many factions. It was naturally good if one could add a few more.

“Of course, since everyone has heard of the name ‘Green Spirit Pill’, I think that all of you should also know some of its side effects.” The auctioneer smiled. A cunningness flashed across his eyes. He did not mention the backlash effect of the ‘Green Spirit Pill’ too clearly, but vaguely hinted toward it. After which, he waved his hand. “Base auction price, Three hundred and thirty thousand!”

“Three hundred and forty thousand!” The voice of the auctioneer had just rang out when someone from the seats in the back shouted out loudly.

“Three hundred and fifty thousand!” There were obviously quite a lot of people who were interested in the ‘Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill’. Therefore ,

the earlier bid was surpassed in less than a minute.

Xiao Yan quietly sat in his chair. His fingers were intertwined together. When he heard the repeated sounds of the price being raised racing by his ear, a faint smile involuntarily surfaced on his face under the black robe. The extent to which the 'Green Spirit Pill' was welcome within the 'Black-Corner Region' had far exceeded his expectations. According to this situation, he would at least have sufficient money to purchase all of the medicinal ingredients for the 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill'.

The shouting of the prices repeatedly sounded one after another within the auction ground. In merely ten minutes, the price of one 'Green Spirit Pill' had risen from three hundred and thirty thousand to around four hundred thousand. When the price had reached this level, the shouting clearly became much more sparse. After all, if one pill was four hundred thousand, two pills would be nearly one million. This kind of price was somewhat too large for most people.

"Five hundred and fifty thousand." Just as the price paused at four hundred and ninety thousand, a somewhat, ice cold, lazy voice finally sounded from the front row.

Hearing this price, which had suddenly soared by sixty thousand, Xiao Yan raised his head slightly. His somewhat strange gaze paused on the body of the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect. His heart softly muttered, "Is he also interested in the 'Green Spirit Pill'?"

After the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect shouted out a price, the noisy auction house immediately became much quieter. Some of the people who originally planned on raising the price once again faced each other and unwillingly sat down. Although they had some money, they undoubtedly knew their limit and the consequences if they competed against the Blood Sect. Since this was the case, they might as well give up.

"Five hundred and sixty thousand."

Just when Xiao Yan thought that the price would stop at five hundred and fifty thousand, however, a faint voice suddenly sounded.

Gazes followed the shouting and moved, before finally stopping on the

body of a middle-aged man wearing skull grey robes at the front row. They frowned slightly as their hearts muttered: "Someone from the 'Black Skeleton's Tomb'."

The 'Black Skeleton's Tomb' was also quite a strong faction within the 'Black-Corner Region'. It is said that they practice an extremely weird Qi Method. Moreover, their elemental affinity was tilted toward the rare dankness affinity. Therefore, there were few people in the tomb. However, all of them were elite, strong people. They usually had an unceasing number of conflicts with the Blood Sect, but they did not really go all out and fight to the death due to the suppression and restraint of the leaders on both sides.

When he heard there was someone who issued a competing bid, the eyes of the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect immediately became much darker and colder. He tilted his head and glanced at the wooden face of the middle-aged man. He said, "Five hundred and eighty thousand."

"Five hundred and ninety thousand." The middle-aged man was still expressionless as he shouted at a steady pace.

The gazes of the people on the entire auction ground agglomerated onto these two people. The factions at the front row did not participate. They merely watched the two people with interest as they wondered how high the two people would raise the prices to.

"Junior Sect Leader, five hundred thousand is already the peak price for a 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pill'. If you continue adding, you will lose out somewhat. Moreover, we must leave some money for the final contest." Seemingly having seen that the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect was still thinking of raising the price once more, the old man beside him hurriedly whispered.

"Six hundred thousand." The Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect frowned slightly. He mused for a moment before announcing his final price. He had already made the decision that he would give up this bidding if the other party increased the price further.

Against many people's expectation, however, the expressionless middle-

aged man did not open his mouth again after the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect shouted this price. He shrunk back into his chair and a faint ridicule surfaced on his wooden face.

The middle-aged man's action caused the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect, Fan Leng, to be blank. He immediately appeared to have understood what had happened and a dense darkness was lifted from the corner of his mouth. He softly said, "Very good. If father wants to take action this time around, let me handle this Moer Han. I want him to taste the pain of having his blood completely drained."

"Ke ke, Junior Sect Leader Fan Leng bids six hundred gold coins for one pill. Who else wants to increase the price? If there isn't anyone, then the two 'Two-Lined Green Spirit Pills' belong to him!" The white-haired auctioneer was quite satisfied with this price. He immediately smiled as he asked the crowd. When saw that there was no response, he finally knocked the auction hammer in his hand downward.

"One million two hundred thousand. Not a bad price. These suckers." A mocking smile surfaced in the shadows under the black robe. One million two hundred thousand was about to flow into Xiao Yan's already depleted money bag.

After auctioning off the two 'Green Spirit Pills', the few things behind were not auctioned off at a high price. Some of the things had their prices merely raised once before they were successfully auctioned off to someone. This caused the auctioneer on the stage to feel a little pain. These sales were related to his evaluation and income.

It was fortunate, however, that this low tide was finally suddenly raised after it had persisted for over ten minutes. Even Xiao Yan's face was filled with surprise at the thing that was auctioned.

The auctioneer carefully used both hands to pick up a scroll made out of an ancient jade from the crystal platform. His expression was filled with mystery as he faced the crowd.

"Everyone, the thing that is going to be auctioned off next is something that is currently very rarely seen. This is a kind of Dou Technique. Due to

the method to create it being lost, however, it is now currently become extremely rare.”

Upon hearing the introduction given by the auctioneer, Xiao Yan appeared to have faintly sensed something in his heart.

“Flying Dou Technique: Lightning Bat Sky Wings!”

The hands of the auctioneer trembled. The scroll suddenly slide down and was immediately exposed. At that instant, a pair of small-scaled. black-colored bat wings, which appeared to have a ghostly aura appeared in everyone’s sight.

“As expected.” Xiao Yan was stunned as he watched the exquisite pair of bat wings. He let out a long breath of air as he muttered in his heart.

Chapter 392: Competing for the Lightning Bat Sky Wings and the Map Fragment

A faint purple, lighting aura seeped out from within the dark, black bat wings. Some of the arcs appeared to be a substance-like lightning shape, appearing extremely mysterious.

Once this so called Lightning Bat Sky Wings appeared, the entire auction house became somewhat quiet. Some of the people, who did not know what's what, appeared a little lost. A commotion, however, broke out among those who had heard of the name Flying Dou Technique, like the Blood Sect, Black Skeleton Tomb, and the other factions in front. Clearly, this so called Lightning Bat Sky Wings had interested them. After all, as long as one had this Dou Technique, they would be able to fly, just like a strong Dou Wang. This was definitely something that one must have to easily kill people and flee!

"This thing is interesting. I like it." The Blood Sect's Junior Sect Leader's gaze stared intently at the strange bat wings, which had escaped from the jade scroll as he softly muttered.

"Junior Sect Leader, the price of this flying Dou Technique is likely going to be over a million. If we continue to squander like this, we might not be able to compete for the last item." Upon hearing Fan Ling's words, a similarly pale-faced old man could not resist whispering with worry.

"Why are you so anxious?" Fan Ling glanced at the old man and coldly laughed, "Since father has already made preparations, that thing will land in our hands regardless of who gets it through the auction. In that case, we might even be able to save a large sum."

"However, that is a little too risky. Moreover, if the information is leaked, it would be a little troublesome." The old man hesitantly said.

"I naturally have my own plans. There is no need to be overly concerned Elder Luo." Fan Ling's gaze was dark and cold as he eyed the group of people from the Black Skeleton Tomb, who were seated not far away,

while speaking indifferently.

“Ah.” Seeing that his advice was useless, the one called Elder Luo could only helplessly sigh. He shook his head and ceased speaking.

On the crystal platform, the white-haired auctioneer spat his saliva in all directions as he roughly explained the effect of the flying Dou Technique. When those people, who were originally somewhat at a loss, heard that this thing could allow a person to fly in the sky without advancing to the Dou Wang level, their eyes instantly became fiery.

“Ke ke, I think that everyone should also know that Flying Dou Techniques are currently extremely rare. After our negotiations, this ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wings’ can be considered to be a Low Class Middle Xuan Flying Dou Technique if it were to be ranked according to its class. Therefore, the based price is set at one million. The auction will now begin.” The white haired auctioneer smiled again as he spoke.

“Uh, it is actually this expensive.” Hearing the high price of one million, Xiao Yan shook his head. He could sense the heated gazes within the auction ground had instantly been greatly reduced when the price was announced.

“Ke ke, it is indeed a little expensive, but the Flying Dou Technique is worth this price. This is also the reason why even I said that you were lucky when you obtain the ‘Purple Cloud Wings’ from the mountain cave back then. At the very least, you are likely the only person who possesses a Flying Dou Technique in the Jia Ma Empire.” Yao Lao laughter suddenly sounded in Xiao Yan’s heart.

“Hei, this is the first time I have seen a Flying Dou Technique other than the Purple Cloud Wings. Teacher, if the ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wings’ were to be compared with my Purple Cloud Wings, which would be faster?” Xiao Yan smiled and asked somewhat curiously in his heart.

“The ‘Purple Cloud Wings’ of yours is a Middle Level Xuan Class Level technique while this is a Low Level Xuan Class technique. Naturally, yours are a little faster. However, due to being made from a Lightning Bat, this ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wings’ speed can be pushed to extreme limits during a

lightning storm. At other times, it can only be considered ordinary.” Yao Lao smiled as he replied.

Xiao Yan nodded his head with understanding. He withdrew his gaze. Now that he had the ‘Purple Cloud Wings’, the ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wings’ may appear extremely amazing, but it was nothing compared to his current technique and would not grab his interest.

Although he was not overly interested, it did not mean that others were the same as him. Just as the white-haired auctioneer voice fell, the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect, Fan Ling, slowly stood up. His threatening gaze looked at everyone around him. Anyone whose eyes came into contact with his would involuntarily avert their sight. Only those strong people, who were similarly supported by quite a strong strength, acted as though they sensed nothing.

“One million three hundred thousand!”

Fan Ling withdrew his gaze and coldly issued a price that caused an uproar within the auction house. Directly raising the price by three hundred thousand in one go. It appeared this fellow was intending to announce one thing to everyone: This Young Master wants the Flying Dou Techniqiue!

Under this price, the entire auction house was calm, aside from a few whispers, for awhile before a bewitching laughter, that seeped directly into one’s bones sounded, “Junior Sect Leader Fan Ling is really generous. However, our ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ is also quite interested in this ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wing’. Therefore, I apologize. One million four hundred thousand.”

The expression of that Fan Ling could not help but change slightly when he heard this bewitching voice. His eyes solidified slightly as he eyed the other side of the auction house. At the place where he looked, a few tall, sexy bodies were sitting there, relaxing on their furry chairs. Their soft waists were as alluring as water serpents.

“Hee hee, it is actually Elder Qing from the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’. It is really unexpected that you also came to participate in the auction fair this

year.” Fan Ling gave a superficial smile as he spoke.

“I have no choice. There are some things which one cannot keep concealed. Don’t you agree, Junior Sect Leader?” That bewitching lady, who was called Elder Qing, smiled as she asked her question. Her enchanting figure caused a nefarious flame to dance within the hearts of quite a number of young men in the auction house. If they were to press down this body of snake-like softness and hear the sounds emitted from those moist-red lips, just how crazy would they become?

“Sky Serpent Mansion?” Xiao Yan could not help but question when he heard this name.

“Hee hee, little fellow, back then you even exchanged blows with people from the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’. Don’t tell me you have forgotten?” Yao Lao spoke with a smile.

“Exchanged blows?” Xiao Yan was startled when he heard this. Immediately, he appeared to have recalled something and the expression under his black robe changed drastically, “That mysterious woman and the ‘Eight-Winged Black Serpent Emperor’?”

“Yes, they are people who belong to the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion.’”

“Qing Lin is in their hands.” Xiao Yan’s expression was slightly gloomy.

“Ke ke, you need not be too worried for that little girl. Her life at the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ is actually better than any other place. Those strange and unique eyes of hers would cause the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ to use all their resources to train her. If you meet her in the future, you might be shocked by her strength.” Yao Lao comforted.

“Hopefully. However, if I have the opportunity in the future, I will go and look for her. If it is indeed really as teacher has said, then I’ll forget about it. If the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ tries to forcefully take a person’s eyes, like that Mo clan, I will definitely not let her stay in that kind of place.” Xiao Yan mused in his heart. Xiao Yan’s heart felt a little sympathy for that little girl who had such a miserable life. Moreover, she was snatched away from his hands. Therefore, he also felt a little ashamed.

“Yes.” Yao Lao gave a response before immediately descended into silence.

During the time that Yao Lao was conversing with Xiao Yan, the competition in the auction house had already escalated to a level that could cause people to shudder with fear. While Fan Ling and that Elder Qing were bidding against each other, the other factions would also occasionally fan the flames and raise the price. Therefore, in just a short while, the ‘Lightning Bat Sky Wings’, that’s base price was one million, had risen to over one million seven hundred thousand. Moreover, from the looks of the situation, it was actually a close fight, a situation that was difficult to resolve.

“One million nine hundred thousand!” Fan Ling inhaled a deep breath of air and a morbid-like redness surfaced on his pale white face. His dense dark gaze stared at the enchanting and moving Elder Qing.

“Junior Sect Leader Fan Ling is really generous. One million nine hundred thousand. I hope that you still have sufficient money at the end.” After Fan Ling’s final price, the old face of Elder Qing also changed slightly. Their purpose this time around was not the flying Dou Technique. Wasting too much money at this time was clearly somewhat unwise. Therefore, she could only give up continuing to compete. She shrugged her shoulders and said with curled lips.

“Humph.” Fan Ling let out a cold laugh. He turned his head and threw his gaze toward the crystal platform, shouting coldly at the auctioneer, who was somewhat out of it, “Why are you still in a daze?”

“Oh. Ke ke, Junior Sect Leader, please don’t be angry.” The white-haired auctioneer, who was shocked awake, hurriedly said with a smile. After facing the auction ground and asked three times according to the rules, the auction hammer in his hand finally came down, announcing the final owner.

Following the fall of the auction hammer, the flying Dou Technique fell into Fan Ling’s hands.

“Tsk tsk, they are indeed worthy of being a large faction. They act so

extraordinarily. One million nine hundred thousand. This enormous sum is equal to a couple years worth of our Xiao clan's income." As Xiao Yan eyed Fan Ling, who slowly sat down, he could not resist smacking his lips and whispered with a smile.

After the 'Lightning Bat Sky Wings' was auctioned off, at the highest price seen since the start of the auction, the bidders in the back descended into a low tide. Although the earlier items were auctioned off at a price that wouldn't make others speechless, it undoubtedly caused people to stop feeling shock when they compared it to the sky high price of this technique.

Xiao Yan leaned his back against the chair. His finger gently tapped on his knee. Occasionally, his peripheral vision would sweep across those people from the 'Sky Serpent Mansion'. One could not tell what the face under the black robe was thinking.

"Ke ke, the thing that is going to be auctioned off next is somewhat strange. This is because even we cannot figure out exactly what its use is. However after repeated distinguishment from our auction fair, it appears to be a certain, unknown treasure map." The white-haired auctioneer bent his body to take out a silver plate. After which, he carefully pulled aside the cloth on top of the silver plate. Immediately, a dilapidated ancient cloth piece appeared in everyone's sight.

"Boo." As they saw the dilapidated cloth fragment, everyone in the hall immediately emitted a booing sound after it had been quiet for a while.

The smile on the white haired auctioneer's face was somewhat awkward as he heard the unhappy responses. After their examination, this old cloth should be a map. This could be recognized from the routes and symbols on it. However, they did not manage to gain much other than this, with the exception of...

The corner of the auctioneer eyes glanced at that old cloth. His fingers twisted it and placed it across the light in front of everyone's eyes. He pointed at a certain picture at the edge, where only half of it existed and said with a smile, "If it is what I think it is, this map should be very old.

Although I am uncertain what it leads to, an ancient item should not be an ordinary one right? A person has to gamble a little. If anyone could obtain the complete map and is lucky enough, the thing that is hidden may shake the entire continent.”

“Chi.” Most people gave a snort of contempt in the face of these words of his.

Of course, not everyone reacted like this. At the very least, the eyes of the current Xiao Yan abruptly widened.

His gaze contained a slight shiver as he stared at the drawing located at the edge of that map fragment. He inhaled a cool, deep breath within his heart and did his best to suppress the rolling and surging thoughts in him. There were two of map fragments similar to this within his storage ring.

That image with only one side was not just some lines, but was the ‘Clean Lotus Demon Flame’, ranked third on the ‘Heavenly Flame Ranking’!

The ‘Clean Lotus Demon Flame’ was a terrifying ‘Heavenly Flame’ which even Yao Lao had never seen before. Legend has it that under this kind of demon flame, Dou Zongs and even Dou Zuns could only tremble in fear. If he obtained it, would the ‘Flame Mantra’ directly evolve into a legendary Tian Class Qi Method?

Of course, Xiao Yan was also ignorant of this answer. The only thing that the current him knew was that he had to obtain that map fragment at all costs!

Chapter 393: Unforeseen Changes

On the crystal platform, the white-haired auctioneer's saliva was spitting everywhere as he introduced just how mysterious this ancient cloth fragment was. In summary, he had put in his all in order to raise the value of this old cloth fragment by even a little. Unfortunately, the effect did not seem to be great. This was because some people on the auction ground had already become impatient during his patient introduction. Some of those who were bad tempered directly cursed out loud.

Hearing that the people below did not have any enthusiastic responses, the white-haired auctioneer could only helplessly shake his head. He swallowed his saliva and moistened his dry throat before speaking with a bitter smile, "According to what we determined, the base price of this piece of cloth fragment is one hundred thousand. Now, the auction shall begin."

As the voice of the white haired auctioneer fell, the enormous auction ground immediately became completely quiet. Some of the gazes which were sweeping over the platform were like they were trying to find an idiot. Who would spend one hundred thousand gold coins to purchase a broken thing, which one did not even know if it is real or fake? Moreover, even if one had the money, one would not randomly spend it like this, no?

Under the black robe, Xiao Yan's gaze stared intently at that ancient cloth fragment. If it were not for his face being covered by the shadow of the Doupeng, it was likely that anyone could see just by looking at his face that he was filled with excitement. He inhaled a deep breath and forcefully suppressed the agitation in his heart. His reasoning told him that now was not the best opportunity to state a price. Should his action attract the doubt and attention of the very large factions up front, it was likely that the thing would end up landing in someone else's hand. At the very least, Xiao Yan clearly knew in his heart that it was impossible for him to contend against those faction with his current wealth.

TL: Doupeng – conical bamboo hat with a cloth attached to it to hide one's face

The white-haired auctioneer couldn't help but shake his head helplessly as he eyed the silent auction ground and the countless mocking gazes. In his heart, he repeatedly slandered those fellows who evaluated the price. Although this cloth piece was of an ancient origin, it was, after all, only in a fragmented state. Moreover, the information that was revealed on it was clearly insufficient to let someone identify exactly what it was hiding. Under this situation with numerous unknowns, even he himself did not have much confidence that it could successfully be auctioned off at the price of a hundred thousand.

The silence in the auction ground continued for five minutes when the auctioneer finally sighed. He was just about to announce that the auction time was up and had fallen through, when a voice sounded suddenly, causing him to heave a great sigh of relief.

“One hundred and ten thousand.”

The faint voice broke the silence within the auction ground. Countless number of gazes moved toward the voice before finally stopping on the body of a black robed figure near the front row. Some muttering sounded.

“Is there something wrong with that fellow's mind? Spending one hundred and ten thousand to purchase a broken thing which has an unknown use?”

Not only the human crowd at the back, but also some of those factions at the front threw a somewhat strange gaze toward Xiao Yan, whose body was wrapped in the black robe.

The Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect tilted his head toward Xiao Yan. His brows involuntarily furrowed slightly. For some unknown reason, his heart kept having an extremely cautious feeling toward this mysterious person. Now that he saw him actually issuing a bid for the first time, it was difficult to say if there was any use for the ancient map fragment. A strange feeling shrouded his heart, one that could not be shaken off.

Fan Ling shook his head. He mused for a moment before narrowing his eyes. Those eyes of his flickered as he stared at the slightly swaying ancient cloth piece on the hands of the auctioneer.

The auctioneer on the crystal platform also quietly sighed when he heard someone finally placing a bid. He lifted his head and smiled as spoke in the direction where Xiao Yan was at, "This sir has bid one hundred and ten thousand. Is there anyone who wants to raise the price?"

Countless number of people rolled their eyes when they heard the auctioneer's words. Did he really think there were so many idiots in this world?

The auctioneer also clearly knew that this question was redundant. He smiled awkwardly for a while before smashing the auction hammer in his hand.

"Wait."

An ice-cold voice suddenly sounded, causing the auction hammer in the auctioneer hand to stiffen. An uncertain gaze followed the source of the voice and looked over, only to find that the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect, Fan Ling, was slowly standing up. He was immediately startled as he smiled and said, "Junior Sect Leader, you are...?"

Fan Ling ignored him. Under everyone's gaze, he turned his body and used his dark and cold gaze to watch the black-robed person who sat in the chair without moving. Suddenly, he laughed and said, "Nothing. It is just that I am suddenly a little interested in this thing. One hundred and thirty thousand."

Under the black robe, the originally slightly excited gaze had suddenly become sharp. The fist under the robe was tightly clenched. The black robe trembled slightly as Xiao Yan's gaze passed through the hat and stared thickly at the pale-faced young man. A faint Dou Qi involuntarily began to surge forward within his Qi Paths just like a roaring lake.

"Do not be agitated. It would not benefit you to be in disarray now!" Just as the Dou Qi in his body was involuntarily about to gush out, Yao Lao's soft cry woke Xiao Yan from his fury just like a thunder during the spring season.

Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of air. In the eyes of a countless number of people, Xiao Yan appeared to be lazily leaning against the soft back of

the chair. His voice was indifferent, as though he was carelessly fighting with someone because he was piqued, "One hundred and fifty thousand."

Xiao Yan's increased price caused Fan Ling to lift his brow. Within this auction ground, other than those people who similarly had a strong faction behind them, Xiao Yan was the first lone ranger who dared to openly compete with him.

"Two hundred thousand." This Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect stared at Xiao Yan for a long while before waving his hand. He added another fifty thousand to the price.

"Junior Sect Leader." Seeing Fan Ling's action, the old man beside him could not resist standing up. Earlier, it was still understandable if they spent a large amount of money during the auction for the Flying Dou Technique. However, now Fan Ling was spending some unnecessary money to fight with someone. This really did not match Fan Ling's old character.

"Sit down!" Fan Ling's expression became cold. He coldly cried out at the old man and the hostility which flashed across his face caused the old man to feel a chill in his heart. He could only shrink back.

A bidding competition, which had appeared in a baffling manner, immediately caused the gazes in the entire auction house to become stunned. None of them knew just what craziness this Junior Sect Leader was displaying. He had actually suddenly used his money to fight with a random stranger. This kind of thing, which hurt others without benefiting oneself, was really quite exotic.

Of course, other than these people who were totally confused in the auction ground, the auctioneer on the crystal platform parted his mouth and smiled. He did not expect that this thing, which had been thought of having not much use, had actually caused two people to compete for it. Moreover, one of them was the rich and powerful Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect.

Xiao Yan's hand gently trembled in his sleeves. He tried his best to regain his composure.

“Don’t continue competing with him. If we continue in this manner, the other factions might end up seeing some clues. Currently, this Fan Ling should be raising the price to probe you because of some doubts. However, if you persist in continuing to fight with him, you might expose some of the value of the mysterious map fragment. When that time comes, it will be very difficult to be certain that the other factions would not join in. With your current financial ability, you cannot contend with those who have been accumulating their wealth over many years.” Yao Lao’s deep voice suddenly sounded just as Xiao Yan’s unresigned heart had planned to once again increase the price.

“Then what do we do? Don’t tell me we should allow this map fragment to slip away right in front of my eyes?” Xiao Yan ground his teeth as he replied.

“We must definitely obtain the ‘Purifying Lotus Demon Flame’. Therefore, we must completely gather these maps. However, we cannot reveal even a little of anything related to the ‘Purifying Lotus Demon Flame’. Therefore, it is best not to let this map fragment draw too much attention in public. Otherwise, one cannot be certain that it would not be recognized by a very knowledgeable and experienced person. Even though there is only half of the drawing on the map. If it reaches that point, there would really be big trouble.” Yao Lao slowly said.

“Teacher, you mean that we should let Fan Ling take the map away?” Xiao Yan said with a frown.

“Since he wants it, let’s temporarily give it to him. However, I have also said that the thing must definitely be ours.” Yao Lao’s voice was somewhat icily cold.

“Teacher is thinking of taking action after the auction to snatch it?” A dense understanding flashed across those black pupils as Xiao Yan whispered in his heart.

“It is just as you have said. We must obtain that map fragment at all cost. Even though he is the so called Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect, we also don’t need to have any hesitation.” Yao Lao laughed coldly, “Since

this fellow wants it, let's give it to him first. Do not appear to pay too much attention over this thing in order to avoid incurring other people's suspicion."

Xiao Yan slowly exhaled. He quietly nodded and forcefully suppressed the rolling and surging thoughts in his heart. The dark and dense gaze under the Doupeng glanced at Fan Ling while his body shrunk into his chair. He did not open his mouth again.

Seeing this action of Xiao Yan, Fan Ling's brows furrowed immediately. Did he sense wrongly? This fellow acted randomly when he bid on this item?

As this thought ran through his mind, Fan Ling's expression also became somewhat ugly. Those surrounding gazes, which were shooting at him like they were watching an idiotic lunatic, caused the corner of his mouth to twitch a little. He snorted coldly, turned around and sat back in his chair. His face was so gloomy that it was frightening.

"Ke ke, Junior Sect Leader Fan Ling has bid two hundred thousand gold coins for this map fragment. Is there anyone who wants to raise the bid?" The auctioneer smiled as he asked the crowd. However, there was no one who replied him. Therefore, he readily and hurriedly hammered the auction hammer down.

Xiao Yan's body quietly sat on the chair. A few groups of auctioned items were changed on the stage. However, none of the attracted Xiao Yan's gaze. His gaze was partially focused on Fan Ling's back. A dense, savage smile on his face, under the black robe, was gradually becoming bigger.

That Fan Ling had thought that by randomly bidding, he would be able to obtain a treasure map of great value. Unfortunately, even though he finally obtained the treasure map, he had also obtained a death pass along with it.

Xiao Yan must obtain that map fragment, regardless of any means! No matter where Fan Ling ran to after this, he would receive a fatal attack hidden within the darkness!

Chapter 394: Di Class Agility Type Dou

Technique: Three Thousand Lightning

Movement

The auction continued to progress slowly under the anticipation of a countless number of people. After that mysterious map fragment, there were some good things that spurred the atmosphere of the entire place. Coincidentally, the high spirit of competitiveness that Xiao Yan's 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' brought out was among the leaders of the auctioned items.

As the highest grade 'Green Spirit Pill', there were seldom anyone who had seen a true 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' even in this 'Black-Corner Region'. After all, the requirement where one needed three different kinds of flames to refine it was really too tough to meet. Thus, the moment when the 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' was revealed, many of the top faction representatives showed shocked in their faces.

The person who ended up obtaining the 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' was not the rich and powerful Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect, but someone from the 'Sky Serpent Mansion'. That Elder Qing directly burst out a sky high price of one million five hundred thousand and nearly caused the entire place to whistle at the resolution of this woman. Under this sky high price that appeared at the very beginning, that Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect, Fan Ling, could only widen his mouth while fashionably wearing a green face. However, he was held back by that imposing manner of Elder Qing's and could only give up competing for it with great unwillingness.

Xiao Yan could not resist shaking his head as he watched the smiling Elder Qing sit down once again. He muttered in his heart, "What a frightening woman. She doesn't always bid, but when she did, she went for the kill and did not allow anyone to rebound back. She is like a Sand Mandala Snake from the desert which terrifies others."

The high tide brought about by the 'Three-Lined Green Spirit Pill' continued for a long while before it slowly calmed down. Not long after this, Xiao Yan, who had originally shrunk back in his chair to relax, having nothing better to do, was suddenly attracted by a medicinal ingredient which had been brought out on a small silver plate by the auctioneer on the crystal platform.

This medicinal ingredient was completely fiery red, much like it had been bathed in fresh blood. Its entire body was around the size of a palm. At a glance, it looked like a Ganoderma. When this medicinal ingredient appeared, a faint, refreshing fragrance began to spread, soothing the spirits of those people near the crystal platform.

"This is the 'Flame Core Ganoderma'? Tsk tsk, little fellow, you are really lucky to actually even see such a rare ingredient. We were indeed correct to come to this auction fair." Yao Lao's shocked voice carried some surprise as it sounded within Xiao Yan's heart when the blood red LingZhi had just appeared.

"Flame Core Ganoderma?" Xiao Yan was given a jolt when he heard this. A joy that was difficult to hide immediately surged onto his face. "Is this one of the four essential items needed to refine the 'Ground Spirit Spill' which teacher had mentioned? The Flame Core Ganoderma?"

"Yes, the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' only exists at the bottom of volcanoes, absorbing the energy of the volcano as well as the flame at the underground core in order to grow. It is extremely difficult for an ordinary person to pick it. Moreover, some strong Dou Huangs or even Dou Zongs would not dare to carelessly charge into a place like the volcano." Yao Lao smiled as he replied.

Xiao Yan nodded a little and quickly muttered, "I cannot let this thing go. I want to see if that fellow will come and put his foot in again."

During the time when Xiao Yan was conversing with Yao Lao, the auctioneer on the crystal platform also gave a detailed description of the origin and use of the 'Flame Core Ganoderma'. Under his explanation, the reaction from the auction ground was not bad. It appeared that many

people had some interest in this 'Flame Core Ganoderma'.

"Ke ke, according to our estimation, the base price of this 'Flame Core Ganoderma' is set at seven hundred thousand. Everyone, please begin." The white haired auctioneer smiled and eyed the auction ground after reporting this price.

After this high price was revealed, most of the people in the auction ground, who originally had some interest, immediately became disappointed. It was not that they could not fork out seven hundred thousand, but with so much competition, it was a common matter for the price of this damn thing to be doubled. Their money could not be considered to be abundant. In this kind of competition, they naturally needed to act within their means."

"Seven hundred and twenty thousand!" Of course, other than some of those people who wanted to withdraw from the competition, there were still quite a number of people who had the intention to fight for it.

"Seven hundred and forty thousand!"

Xiao Yan sat quietly on his chair and heard the price which was rapidly rising. He was not anxious to participate and compete for it.

As time slowly moved, the few groups competing for it had also begun to gradually reduce due to the high price. In the end, only two people were left competing with one another. At this moment, the price had been raised to one million seventy thousand or so.

"One million two hundred thousand!" Just as the auction ground had a standoff over the prices, a lazy voice finally sounded. Countless number of gazes followed the voice and moved. They finally stopped at the black-robed person, who was slowly standing up.

The sudden jump in price also caused those people in front to turn their heads over in surprise. When Fan Ling saw that the person who shouted the price was actually the black-robed person from earlier, his eyebrows once again involuntarily knit together.

The price of one million two hundred thousand suppressed the last two

competitors in one blow. Xiao Yan ignored the gazes that he sensed were glaring at him from all around. He tilted his head. The gaze under the black robe was shot toward Fan Ling's face. There was a faint provocation contained within it.

Seemingly having sensed the emotion contained within Xiao Yan's gaze, that Fan Ling sneered once. Although the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' was extremely valuable, it did not have the slightest use to him. Moreover, he had incurred a small loss earlier, spending two hundred thousand to purchase an unknown and mysterious broken thing. It was only natural that he would not act on impulse this time around.

Fan Ling lifted his eyes and glanced at Xiao Yan indifferently before he lazily turned back to face the stage and did not engage in any pointless entanglement.

"Chi." Xiao Yan smacked his lips under the black robe. He lifted his head, swung his gaze over to the crystal platform and said, "Can you bring that hammer down already?"

Hearing Xiao Yan's reminder, the auctioneer hurriedly nodded his head. He inquired thrice before the auction hammer in his hand smashed down heavily.

"Hu." Xiao Yan's heart finally heaved a long sigh of relief as he slowly sat back down upon seeing the hammer fall.

After the 'Flame Core Ganoderma' made its appearance, the auction ground appeared to gradually approach its end. This was because, treasures that could truly be called unique objects began to make their appearance one after another during the time that remained. Various different kinds of Qi Methods, Dou Techniques, and even medicinal formulae, that caused one to be dazzled upon seeing them. The excited shouting of prices in the auction ground continued unceasingly. At one of the instances, two factions in the back rows fought for a set of Xuan Class Qi Methods and Dou Techniques until their faces were flushed. In the end, one of them actually pulled out his knife and directly attacked.

Just as that man was about to strike, however, a rushing wind suddenly

appeared in midair within the auction ground. A long, dark, black-colored arrow astonishingly descended from the sky before finally ferociously inserting itself in front of the man. Due to the great force, over half of the arrow's body was inserted into the hard ground. The swaying tail of the arrow emitted an ear-piercing sound due to the extreme speed at which it trembled.

The long arrow which came descending from the sky reminded the two factions who had lost some of their sense of reasoning. Their gazes swept fearfully over the surroundings of the auction ground before finally withdrawing back to their own seats grudgingly.

Under the black robe, Xiao Yan slowly withdrew his gaze from the spot where the commotion had occurred. His gaze moved along his hat and eyed a certain shadow on the second story of the auction ground. That black arrow earlier, which even he felt he had to be cautious about, was shot from that spot.

"This 'Eight Gates' does indeed have quite a strong foundation in order to be bold enough to open an auction." Xiao Yan muttered. He did not participate in the competition earlier. Due to the 'Flame Mantra', Qi Methods already no longer posed much attraction to him. He was also uninterested in ordinary Dou Techniques. Therefore, other than spending four hundred thousand to purchase a medicinal cauldron named 'Bright Square Fire', he did not purchase any other things.

The deafening cries of bidding prices reverberated throughout this large auction ground. The loud noise was nearly about to break the ceiling and charge into the clouds.

When the auction fair was about to enter its final portion, an auction item that truly contained great weight finally appeared. That was a Dou Technique. Putting it more accurately, it was an Agility Type Dou Technique.

"Three Thousand Lightning Movement. Agility Type Dou Technique. Class, Di Class Low Level."

The soft voice of the auctioneer instantly caused the entirely noisy

auction fair to descend into silence. Countless numbers of crimson eyes turned toward that silver colored scroll on the crystal platform. Sounds of hurried breathing were like a bellow creating whirring noises.

“Di Class Dou Technique.” Xiao Yan inhaled a deep breath of cold air. Even his calm heart could not help but hasten its beating. His gaze was filled with shock. Di Class Dou Technique. There was actually someone who could really take out a Dou Technique of this class out to auction off. He really knew how to squander his family’s fortune!

A Dou Technique of this class would likely be treated as an important item to be carefully stored even when it came to those so called first-rate factions on the continent. Yet, there was actually someone who was willing to take it out to sell.

“It is not that they are willing to take it out. It is just that the things auctioned in the ‘Black-Corner Region’ are mostly criminal goods obtained through fraudulent means. They are afraid of being discovered by others, therefore they themselves would also not dare to practice it. Therefore, they take it here to auction off.” Yao Lao said slowly.

Xiao Yan came to a sudden understanding when he heard this.

“According to what I know, this ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’ seems to be the highest grade Agility Dou Technique of the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion’ of the continent. After one learns it, one’s body would transform into a flash of lightning, being so quick that it would be terrifying. If a Da Dou Shi were to learn this, he would be in a position where he would not lose even when contending head on against a Dou Ling. It is really unexpected that this thing, which is regarded by the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion’ as their lifeblood, would actually end up here. I think that those fellows from the ‘Wind Lightning Pavilion’ must be flying with rage at this moment.” Yao Lao laughed faintly.

Xiao Yan nodded a little. He eyed those in front of him, like the Blood Sect, whose eyes were similarly glowing. He involuntarily laughed bitterly, “Even though I am extremely interested in this ‘Three Thousand Lightning Movement’, it is clearly not up to me to contend for it.”

“Yes. They will not give up this kind of thing.” Yao Lao laughed. There was suddenly some anticipation within his laughter, “It is just that I am very curious. This Di Class Dou Technique can only be considered as the second item to dominate this auction since it isn’t the last item. Just what kind of earth-shaking unique treasure will be the true item that dominates the auction?”

Xiao Yan was startled. Astonishment and aghast immediately surged within his heart. Something even more valuable and rare than a Di Class Dou Technique? Just what exactly was it?

Chapter 395: Main Attraction!

Following the appearance of the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement', the atmosphere within the auction ground entered its hottest period. The large factions in the front also finally began to place out more and more competitive bids that caused a countless number of people to sit there in admiration.

No initial base price was set for the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement'. However, at the moment the auction hammer fell, the price abruptly soared to the high price of two million. The terrifying increments that the price was increasing by was something that Xiao Yan had never witnessed in the many years since his birth.

Spending a huge sum in one go. Such pride and daringness was thoroughly displayed by these factions in front of the temptation of this Di Class Agility Type Dou Technique.

The constantly soaring price maintained the atmosphere within the auction house with excited roars that did not stop even for a moment. Under the sky high price, which was swiftly multiplying, many people felt that their trip here was worthwhile just by being able to personally witness this kind of soul-stirring competition of money despite many of them clearly understanding that they did not have the qualification to obtain the item themselves.

The swiftly increasing rate was maintained for nearly half an hour by a bloody competition before it gradually entered its ending phase. At this moment, the price of the 'Three Thousand Lightning Movement' had already risen to a staggering eight million two hundred and seventy thousand.

Over eight million. This enormous sum was equivalent to the total income of the Primer clan in the Jia Ma Empire for a couple of years. Such an enormous sum was something that not a single large faction would carelessly take out without due care even within this 'Black-Corner Region'.

When the price reach this stage, some of the weaker factions finally began to bow out of the bidding war. Following this repeated elimination by the price, the gray robe middle-aged man, who belonged to the 'Black Skeleton Tomb' faction, finally issued a sky high price of ten million two hundred thousand with a convulsing face ten minutes later. The entire auction ground was shaken till it was utterly silent.

A Di Class Dou Technique with a sky high price of over ten million!

The total silence of the auction ground continued for nearly a few minutes before it finally gradually recovered. One by one, the people exchanged glances. They were shaken by that frightening price until their bodies trembled and their heated blood began to boil. Ten million. Just how long did a faction need to accumulate such an enormous sum?

The 'Black Skeleton Tomb' would actually bid such a high price. This clearly caused the Blood Sect, Sky Serpent Mansion, and other factions to be caught unprepared. They exchanged gazes with one another before swallowing the price that had already reached their mouths with ugly faces.

The eyes of Fan Ling, the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect, were dark and cold as he glanced at the middle-aged man, whose gray robe had a skull sewn onto it. His fist gently trembled as he lowered his head slightly. A savage smile and killing intent flashed across his eyes.

Following the withdrawal of the Blood Sect, Sky Serpent Mansion, and other factions, there was naturally no longer anyone left who was qualified to contend with the Black Skeleton Tomb. Hence, that scroll containing a Di Class Agility Type Dou Technique landed in the hands of the Black Skeleton Sect in front of a countless number of gazes.

"Hu, this is really a true killing, a huge sum of ten million..." Xiao Yan could not resist shaking his head as he eyed the brutal competition that slowly began to wind down. He laughed bitterly in his heart and said somewhat doubtfully, "It is just that... can this kind of Di Class Dou Technique be really measured by money?"

"Uh... these words are really... if you want to refine medicinal pill, you

would need to purchase medicinal ingredients, right? Otherwise, with just you alone, just how much effort and time would you need to spend in order to gather all the unique medicinal ingredients scattered all over the various regions of the continent? For example, for you to refine the ‘Ground Spirit Pill’, the price of those four medicinal ingredients would not be lower than five million. You don’t need money? Moreover, a big faction like the Blood Sect has so many people under them which they need to feed. Buying people’s loyalty, grooming strong people, which of these doesn’t need money? You are not the one in charge, so naturally you don’t know the difficulty.” When Yao Lao heard these words of Xiao Yan, he immediately became dull and helplessly explained to this flower in a conservatory who had seldom needed to worry over money.

Xiao Yan smiled awkwardly when he heard Yao Lao’s helpless voice. He lifted his head and eyed the crystal platform. When he saw the red glowing face of the auctioneer suddenly become grave, he could not help but be startled. In a soft voice, he immediately said, “Looks like the item that will dominate all of the other items is about to appear.”

Quite a number of people also appeared to have discovered something when they saw the change in the auctioneer’s expression. The private conversations automatically ceased. Numerous gazes waited for the main attraction of the auction fair to appear without turning their eyes away.

“It’s finally about to appear, huh?” A sleek redness surfaced on his pale-white face as a strange glow flashed across the Blood Sect’s Junior Sect Leader’s eyes as he muttered to himself.

On the other side, Sky Serpent Mansion and Black Skeleton Tomb had also withdrawn the smiles on their faces. Their originally lazy gazes had also become as sharp as an eagle’s.

“Clap, clap.”

The auctioneer on the crystal platform clapped his hands while wearing a grave expression. Following his clapping sound, the edge of the crystal platform suddenly emitted a ‘ka ka’ sound. A circular, black-colored metal barrier rose slowly, finally forming a circle shape that surrounded the

platform within it. Even the air above the crystal platform was tightly covered by the metal strip that had been extended out.

“Ke ke, everyone, please do not be too concerned about this. This is a little precaution that we used in order to ensure the complete safety of the item to be auctioned.” Seeing that the fences, like that of a prison, had completely erected, the auctioneer smiled at the people in the auction ground and explained.

“This prison is built using cold iron. Even a strong Dou Huang would have difficulty breaking it within a short period of time.” When he said these words, the auctioneer’s eyes purposefully sweep across the Blood Sect, Sky Serpent Mansion, and other factions sitting up front. The meaning of his words could be understood even without him saying it.

Those factions’ representatives merely smiled faintly at the special specification of his, but were not too concerned. It was not as though situations where people took action to snatch the auctioned item had not appeared in the auction fairs in the past years. Therefore, it was normal for the ‘Eight Gates’ to be this cautious. Otherwise, if others were to forcefully snatch the thing from their own territory, what face would they have left to survive in the ‘Black-Corner Region’?

Xiao Yan was also startled a little by this overly cautious action of the ‘Eight Gates’. However, he quickly recovered. In this chaotic ‘Black-Corner Region’, there was no need to feel overly shocked over any ridiculous event that happened.

“Tsk tsk, there are a lot more hidden Qis that had suddenly appeared in the auction ground. On the second story, there is even a presence that is no weaker than Hai Bodong’s. I think it should be the leader of the Eight Gates. Hei, looks like they are quite worried.” Yao Lao’s teasing voice suddenly sounded from Xiao Yan’s heart.

“Uh?” Xiao Yan’s face darkened upon hearing this. The gaze under his black robe was veiled as it swept across some of the darkness around the auction ground. Using his eyes, which had once been washed by flames, he could faintly see a dark, black cold glint.

“What exactly is this main attraction? It is actually able to cause the ‘Eight Gates’ to treat it with such great caution. Even the leaders of the group personally came forward to take charge of the situation?” Xiao Yan shook his head and said, while feeling stunned in his heart.

“Ke ke, just continue watching. I think that it should not disappoint anyone.” Yao Lao smiled, shook his head and replied.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He continued to observe the crystal platform. At this moment, the auctioneer was carefully bending his body and took out a purple-gold plate from the container below. There was a small, cold, jade box which stood upright on the purple-gold plate.

The box was pale-white in color. Although the people below were separated a great distance from the box, they could clearly see the pale white-colored fog that was being emitted from the jade box. Only the highest grade of cold jade possessed this kind of effect to preserve cold air.

“It is a medicinal pill?” When Xiao Yan saw the size of the small box and that familiar preservation method, he was initially startled. Some shock immediately flashed past his eyes. Just what tier was this medicinal pill which could surpass a Di Class Dou Technique in value?

Xiao Yan slowly inhaled a breath of cold air. In his heart, Xiao Yan clearly knew that this was only possible if the medicinal pill was at least tier seven!

Tier seven? Until this moment, even Xiao Yan had never seen a medicinal pill of this tier.

“It is indeed something good. But, why is this feeling...” Yao Lao’s voice had some additional gravity and some doubt. A tier seven medicinal pill. Refining a medicinal pill of this tier was really too difficult. It should be clear that just a tier five medicinal pill could already cause an energy ripple in a small area. As for tier seven... he recalled that the kind of strange natural phenomenon that appeared when he had successfully refined this kind of medicinal pill back then was as though the end of days was coming, appearing extremely terrifying.

In this Dou Qi Continent, alchemists who had the qualification to refine

a tier seven medicinal pills successfully were basically existences that were few and far between. All of these people were Grandmasters of this era.

Following the appearance of that cold jade box, all the factions at the front of the auction ground abruptly straightened their backs. Their eyes contained a greed that could not be hidden as they stared intently at the cold jade box.

The white-haired auctioneer ignored all the greedy gazes outside of the metal prison. His hand trembled slightly as he placed the purple-gold plate gently on the auction platform. His shriveled finger carefully lifted the cover of the box. A golden light abruptly shot out.

The sudden appearance of the golden light directly shone over the entire auction ground until it became well lit. Some of the people who were caught unprepared involuntarily shut their eyes as a reflexive action.

Xiao Yan did not close his eyes because of the golden light. His gaze pierced through the shadows of his hat and was firmly locked onto the cold jade box on the crystal platform. At that spot, a gold-colored medicinal pill, around the size of a dragon eye, was quietly lying on it. The outer appearance of the medicinal pill was extremely round and sleek. Two threads of gold-colored air flow circulated indefinitely within the interior of the medicinal pill. Occasionally, they would abruptly pounce upward. If one were to carefully look at it, the gold-colored air flow actually agglomerated into two tiny gold-colored divine dragons which intertwined with one another. A weak dragon's roar passed through the volatility of the air and slowly spread out, causing the spirits of those who heard it to involuntarily tremble under this dragon's might.

Eyeng the interior dragon of the medicinal pill which was agglomerated from its pill aura, Xiao Yan could not help but tremble slightly. The face under the Doupeng was filled with shock that was difficult to conceal.

Pill aura gathering spirit was a unique phenomenon that only a tier seven or higher medicinal pill could possess!

The entire auction ground descended into a dead silence when that dragon roar had sounded out, and now began to fade.

“Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill?”

Yao Lao softly muttered something to himself within Xiao Yan’s heart amidst the silence. However, Xiao Yan appeared to have heard an extreme dark solemnness and fury within that mutter regardless of how he heard it.

Chapter 396: Tier Seven Medicinal Pill: Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill!

The dark solemnness and fury contained within Yao Lao's words naturally did not escape Xiao Yan's keen senses. Xiao Yan could not help but be immediately stunned. He carefully spoke in his heart, "Teacher, is there something bothering you?"

The sound of someone inhaling a deep breath appeared in Xiao Yan's heart. Yao Lao immediately forcefully suppressed his emotions, and said some faint words, "It's nothing. Take a look for now. Allow me to tell you some things in the future. It is a little too early to be telling you about them now."

After saying these words, Yao Lao descended into silence. Regarding this, Xiao Yan was slightly startled. He silently nodded his head and no longer opened his mouth to say anything more. Instead, he lifted his head and threw his gaze over toward the tier seven medicinal pill which Yao Lao had called 'Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill'.

Although there were many people in the auction ground who were uncertain of the exact details of the medicinal pill, they were able to see the extraordinariness of this thing based off of the golden glow it had released earlier. Therefore, desire involuntarily appeared on their faces.

Compared to the outsiders who were unclear of the effect of the medicinal pill, the Blood Sect and other factions in front had suddenly become excited at this moment. Some of those strong people had even allowed the Dou Qi in their bodies to uncontrollably overflow due to their excitement.

The gaze of the auctioneer on the crystal platform slowly swept past the shocked faces in the auction house before he gave a satisfied smile. His finger pointed at the gold-colored medicinal pill as he said with a smile, "Everyone, this is the main attraction for our auction fair. This time around I present to you, a Tier seven medicinal pill, the 'Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill'!"

Clamor!

As these words of the auctioneer fell, the entire ground was quiet. Immediately after, a deafening roar and aghast sound of gasps spread throughout the auction ground like a wildfire.

One by one, crimson eyes accompanied by hurried breathing stared intently at the gold-colored medicinal pill. Tier seven medicinal pill? A medicinal pill of this tier was something that over half of the people present never had the qualification to even see in their entire life. Yet, at this moment, the high tiered medicinal pill, only heard of in rumours, had actually appeared in front of their eyes. How could this not cause them to be so excited that they forgot themselves?

“Ke ke, perhaps many people have never heard of this medicinal pill’s name.”

The auctioneer smiled and said as he eyed the loss in some people’s eyes, “The Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill is placed in tier seven. It is said that if one wants to refine this pill, one must first have the Monster Core of two dragon type Magical Beast which have been dead for less than seven days. Moreover, the monster cores’ rank must at least be rank six.”

This sentence of the auctioneer caused some people at a loss to feel instantly aghast. Two rank six Monster Core that had not died for more than seven days? Was that not equivalent to two strong Dou Huangs?

“It is said that when this pill is refined, there would be a unique natural phenomenon where a yin and a yang dragon spirit would shoot directly into the clouds, twining around each other, and finally agglomerating into a pill...” The auctioneer smiled as he spoke. While he was explaining, there was even some wild heat appearing in his eyes, “The use of the ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’ is not to directly enable one to raise one’s strength, but to allow one to stand after breaking!”

“Allowing one to stand after breaking?” Xiao Yan was startled and his brows were knit tightly together.

“If anyone were to consume this ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’ and their life was to hang by a thread, or that they are heavily wounded in the

future, this thing will be able to provide a chance for you to stand back up after sustaining life threatening injuries, should you be lucky enough. The so called 'stand after breaking' means to break the restraints of the past and allow a person to undergo metamorphosis. One's body, spirit, or even Dou Qi would be at an even higher level!" The auctioneer smiled as he continued, "In other words, whoever consumes this would not need to worry about their life should their bodies receive a fatal or serious injury in the future. One might even transform into a stronger being because of it!"

"Perhaps many people are somewhat confused with regards to the limit of this complete transformation. In that case, I will give everyone a detailed description here." The auctioneer laughed and immediately said, "I think that everyone should have heard of the name Wind zun zhe, Gu Ling right?"

TL: zun zhe – used to address a Dou Zun

"Chi, that was a strong person at the peak, renown throughout the continent. He is a strong person at the Dou Zun class. Back then, he used his own strength to destroy a first tier faction in the continent within three days. How could we have not heard of his great name with accomplishments that shook the entire continent?" The question of the auctioneer was immediately received by the rolling of some eyes.

"Wind zun zhe, Gu Ling?" Xiao Yan quietly remembered this within his heart. When he heard this somewhat foreign name at this moment, he also began to hear the booing sounds from the surroundings. A strong person at the Dou Zun level was really somewhat too far with regards to the current him.

"Since everyone seems to know the name Wind zun zhe, then you should also know that before he achieved becoming a Dou Zun, the great Gu Ling had an earth shaking fight with an enemy of his, right? During that battle, the great Gu Ling, who was still a five star Dou Zong, may have successfully defeated his opponent but he was also seriously wounded to the point where his strength was scattered. According to common sense, even if he could continue living, his strength would also be reduced but

what was that the reality? Seven years after that big battle, the great Gu Ling, who had been missing for a long time, once again appeared on the continent. At this time, his strength had already reached the Dou Zun class.” The auctioneer laughed faintly.

The entire auction ground was completely silent. Shock surged on the faces of many people. In seven years, he had not only recovered from his serious injuries, but his strength had actually greatly leaped forward, directly advancing from a Dou Zong to a Dou Zun. This speed was really frightening!

Shock similarly surfaced on Xiao Yan’s face. A moment later, the shock disappeared and his heart moved. His gaze turned toward the golden-colored medicinal pill, suddenly remembering something as he involuntarily inhaled a deep breath of cool air.

“Ke ke, I think that some people have also guessed something. That’s right, the great Gu Ling had luckily obtained a ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’, which he consumed when he was roaming the continent back then. During those many long years, it had been latent within his body until the moment he was seriously wounded. At that point, the special effect of the “Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’ was activated: To stand after breaking!”

“Therefore, within seven years, he leaped from a Dou Zong to a Dou Zun!”

“Hiss.”

The silence continued for a while within the enormous auction ground. The sound of people taking deep breaths were almost connected into a continuous stream. When the countless number of people once again looked at the gold-colored medicinal pill within the prison, the desire in their eyes had completely turned into greed.

“What a frightening thing... ‘to stand after breaking’.” Xiao Yan clenched his fists which were covered in perspiration as he softly muttered.

“You also need not listen to all his bragging. That ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’ may indeed have the effect of allowing one to stand after

breaking, but even if one can luckily activate this kind of medicinal effect when one is seriously injured, one might not truly be able to completely stand after one breaks. Moreover, there is only one chance of doing so.” Yao Lao faint voice suddenly sounded once again, “Additionally, at the moment the effect of ‘standing after breaking’ is activated, your entire body would no longer belong to you. If you are able to endure that kind of inhumane torture, you would naturally truly break from your cocoon and become a butterfly. If you cannot, you will indeed break, but you will not be able to stand after that.”

“Even with that tenacious character of Gu Ling, he had nearly failed to endure that kind of torture back then. Can you imagine just what kind of pain it is to be able to cause a strong Dou Zong to nearly be unable to endure?”

“Uh.” Xiao Yan was startled. He rolled his eyes and suddenly asked in his heart, “Is teacher very familiar with that Wind zun zhe, Gu Ling?”

“It can be considered so.” Yao Lao carelessly replied. He then suddenly recovered and helplessly said, “You need not think of trying to set me up to get information. I will tell you about myself in due time. However, the current you is too weak. Knowing too much is not good for you.”

Xiao Yan smiled bitterly as he heard this. The current him, who was merely a Da Dou Shi, really had difficulty squeezing into the planes of Yao Lao and the others. However, with his current training speed, just how much more time did he need in order to enter the Dou Wang, or even Dou Huang class?

“Little fellow, don’t belittle yourself. The ‘Flame Mantra’ you are practicing provides you with the foundation to create a miracle. Believe in yourself. Other people need to accumulate their training over time, but you only need to find sufficient ‘Heavenly Flames’ and successfully swallow them. It is an extremely easy matter for your future achievements to surpass me or even Gu Ling.” Yao Lao could not help but whisper when he sensed Xiao Yan’s thoughts.

“Hu.” Xiao Yan gently inhaled a breath of air and nodded slightly. With a

smile, he said, “Hopefully.”

As the auctioneer on the crystal platform watched the atmosphere created by the ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’, he smiled with satisfaction. His gaze turned toward those faction seated at the front row. He clearly understood that these were the competitors who had the ability to fight for the ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’.

“Don’t talk any more nonsense. State the starting price.” The Junior Sect Leader frowned somewhat impatiently and cried out in a dark, cold voice after hearing the long-winded speech of the auctioneer.

“Ke ke.” The auctioneer smiled before nodding and then finally cleared his throat. With a serious expression, he said, “I think that everyone here is also clear of the value of this ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’. Just pure money is unable to match its price. Therefore, the owner who auctioned this medicinal pill has said that no matter who the final owner of this medicinal pill is, he must unconditionally promise to help him do two tasks!”

“Do two tasks?”

The Blood Sect, Black Skeleton Sect, Sky Serpent Mansion, and other factions below were stunned when they heard this. Their expressions changed slightly. That Elder Qing from the Sky Serpent Mansion could not resist laughing coldly, “These words of yours are really funny. Do you think we should obey that person if he asks us to use all of our strength to fight with a certain strong person or faction which we have difficulty winning against?”

“Ke ke, that is naturally impossible. The two tasks here are definitely within the ability of everyone here. However, I would like to give a reminder here. Since the owner is able to take out this ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’, his status and ability is not weak. The thing that he needed someone to do should also not be too simple. Therefore, everyone who is interested in this medicinal pill has to weigh their decisions a little, otherwise, things could end up being unpleasant.” The auctioneer spoke with a smile.

The eyes of many of those people below, who had come because of the ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’, flickered a little when they heard the auctioneer’s words.

“I have already conveyed the seller’s words. If anyone is still interested, let the auction begin. It will be like the Di Class Dou Technique earlier, this ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’ does not have a base price.” The auctioneer bent his body and smiled as he spoke to the people below.

“Let’s leave. There is nothing good left to see in this auction fair. It is not up to you to fight for this ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’.” Yao Lao said faintly.

Xiao Yan slowly rubbed his forehead with his finger and nodded slightly. Since he had already seen the final event, there was really no necessity for him to continue staying. He glanced at those factions ready to make trouble in front, stood up, and quietly left the auction ground...

Chapter 397: Auction House

Xiao Yan slowly walked out of the auction house and stood at the entrance. He lifted his head to watch the slightly darkening sky before letting out a long sigh. After which, he turned around and walked toward the hall of the auction house.

“I should first obtain the money and the things I have bid for.” Xiao Yan muttered to himself as he walked.

When he entered the hall, Xiao Yan took out his second grade VIP card and handed it to a female servant. After he clearly stated his purpose, he was respectfully invited in by the latter.

“Sir, please wait for a moment. The auction fair will be over soon. When that time comes, the one in charge will help this sir put together the goods you have bought.” The female servant placed a cup of warm tea on the table beside Xiao Yan before withdrawing with a smile from the room.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly and held the teacup in his hand. He absorbed some of the warmth, but did not drink it. There was no harm in being a little more cautious in this ‘Black-Corner Region’. This was especially so at this auction place, where it appeared to be fair, but was actually a dark place in a complete mess.

Xiao Yan closed his eyes. His finger slowly tapped on the table. This continued for a long while before the sound of approaching footsteps were suddenly transmitted into the room. Xiao Yan’s finger gradually paused and he opened his eyes to watch the curtain, which had been pulled aside. There was a small, skinny, shrivelled-looking old man, who was leading two female servants, as they walked in full of smiles.

“Ke ke, Mister should be the person who auctioned off the three ‘Green-Spirit Pills’, right? I am the person in charge of the affairs here and you can call me Supervisor Hu.” When the old man saw Xiao Yan, whose entire body was wrapped in a black robe, he walked forward and spoke with a smile still on his face.

“Yao Yan.” Xiao Yan nodded faintly and softly replied, “Supervisor Hu,

has the auction fair concluded?”

“Ke ke, it has successfully concluded.” Supervisor Hu nodded with a grin as his gaze swept over Xiao Yan’s body without leaving a trace. However, he did not discover anything amiss which could help him recognize the latter’s identity. He then waved his hand, and a female servant from behind hurriedly lifted the silver plate on her hand. On the silver plate was a purple-gold card with five different colored lines drawn on it.

Five-lined purple gold card was something that only a Dou Ling had the qualification to manage and carry on this Dou Qi continent. Of course, nothing was ever absolute. According to common sense, a tier three alchemist also had this qualification.

“Mister Yao Yan, the price that your three ‘Green Spirit Pills’ was auctioned off for was two million seven hundred thousand. After deducting ten percent as the administration fee for the auction fair, you are left with two million four hundred and thirty thousand.” The eyes of Supervisor Hu were narrowed until they were only a line as he smiled and continued, “You have spent one million two hundred thousand on that ‘Flame Core Ganoderma’ and four hundred thousand on the ‘Bright Square Fire’ Cauldron. You are finally left with eight hundred and thirty thousand, which is all in this purple and gold card. Those things which you had purchased are in this storage ring.”

The supervisor waved his hand and the female servant handed the silver plate to Xiao Yan. There was a five-lined, purple-gold card and an ordinary storage ring sitting on the silver plate.

“What an unscrupulous administrative fee.” Xiao Yan shook his head helplessly within his heart. He did not expect that after working for over half a day, he was actually left with less than one million gold coins.

Xiao Yan extended his hand to receive that card and storage ring. He carefully checked the ‘Flame Core Ganoderma’ and the ‘Bright Square Fire’ cauldron before finally taking the two out and placing them into his own storage ring.

“That’s right, Supervisor Hu, which faction managed to successfully bid

for the ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’ in the end?” Xiao Yan suddenly carelessly asked out of curiosity after arranging everything properly.

“Ke ke, that thing was finally auctioned off to the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’.” Supervisor Hu did not hesitate when he heard Xiao Yan’s question and directly replied. After all, countless number of people had personally witnessed the auction. Even if he did not say it, it was likely the news would spread throughout half of the ‘Black-Corner Region’ in an afternoon.

“The ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’, huh.” The eyebrows under the black robe twitched as Xiao Yan muttered in his heart

“Since I have obtained the things I have paid for, I shall not disturb you any further. Goodbye.” Once he obtained the answer, Xiao Yan ceased hesitating as he cupped his hands toward Supervisor Hu and left.’

“Ke ke, Mister Yan Xiao, please wait a moment. Our leader is interested in mister. If mister does not mind, can you meet up and chat with our leader?” The Supervisor Hu suddenly asked with a smile when he saw that Xiao Yan was about to leave.

Xiao Yan frowned slightly under the black robe and said faintly, “Forget about it. I am only here to get rid of some unneeded things. What is there to cause your leader to have any interest? I’m sorry, I really have some things to do and cannot stay any longer. If I still need to sell anything in the future, I will definitely come look for Supervisor Hu. Goodbye.”

With that, Xiao Yan did not wait for Supervisor Hu to try to convince him to stay. Instead, he swiftly walked out of the hall.

Supervisor Hu narrowed his eyes slightly as he stood in the hall as Xiao Yan disappeared from his sight. He could not resist knitting his brows together.

“How was it? Did you find out his identity?”

A faint voice suddenly sounded in the hall. Supervisor Hu turned around and saw that it was a middle-aged man with a sturdy frame, who was seated in the chair which Xiao Yan had been sitting in earlier. Following

the appearance of this man, the atmosphere of the hall suddenly became a little more tense, causing the waist of Supervisor Hu to bend by quite a lot.

“Leader.” Supervisor Hu hurriedly said respectfully after seeing this middle-aged man whose hair was a little white, “For now, I still cannot see through him. This person hides very deeply. Logically speaking, by being able to take out three ‘Green Spirit Pill’ at once, there is a good chance that he is an alchemist. Moreover, it is likely that his tier is quite high. After all, a medicinal pill of the ‘Green Spirit Pill’ grade is something that even an ordinary tier four alchemist would have difficulty refining. I have thought of all those high tier alchemists whom I know, but I cannot match his figure with any high-tiered alchemists that I know of.

The middle-aged man frowned slightly as he let out a soft ‘hmm’. His faint voice contained a dark, cold, killing intent that was difficult to hide, “Send someone to follow him in the shadows. Ascertain his background. A high tier alchemist who can refine a ‘Green Spirit Pill’ is not someone that one can easily come across. Try your best to let him work for our ‘Eight Gates’. If that is really not possible, get rid of him in an infallible situation. Since he cannot be used by me, I naturally cannot let others get the benefit. Otherwise, he will sooner or later become trouble.”

“Yes.” Supervisor Hu hurriedly replied.

“Ah, you go and settle it. Find some people who are more well versed in hiding their Qi. I still need to personally help the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ perform the administrative work for the exchange of the ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’. That thing is far too expensive. If it were not because of the status of the seller being so strong, is it logical for something which has come here to be auctioned to get taken away from us?” The middle-aged man stood up and smacked his lips before walking toward the back of the hall. He laughed coldly with some unwillingness.

TL: Basically, auction house was the one “selling” the items

Supervisor Hu repeatedly nodded. He waited until the middle-aged person disappeared before gently releasing his pent up breath and quietly left the hall.

Xiao Yan exited the auction house and went to the 'Thousand Medicine Place' first. Once he purchased the medicinal ingredients needed to refine the 'Spiritual Recovery Purple Pill', the eight hundred over thousand within his purple-gold card was reduced until over two hundred thousand was left.

Xiao Yan played with the purple-gold card in his hand and could not resist laughing bitterly. It was really unexpected that after spending over half a day, his financial situation had returned back to its starting point.

"Ah, it really is unexpected that I am still a poor person." As he thought of how those fellows spent huge sums of money in the auction house, Xiao Yan could not help but feel speechless at the gap between himself and them.

"Be careful, there are people following you. I think that it should be people from that 'Eight Gates'." Yao Lao's faint voice suddenly sounded in Xiao Yan's heart as the latter passed through a street.

Xiao Yan's footsteps paused for a moment. He then walked forward at a steady pace once again. In his heart, he smiled coldly and said, "It is worthy of being the 'Black-Corner Region'. With the cheap honesty of these fellows, there are actually people who are rest assured in handing their things to them to auction off? If this were to happen in the Jia Ma Empire, it would sooner or later have to close down."

"There is no choice. In this 'Black-Corner Region', there are not many people who have the strength to organize this kind of auction fair. After all, this place is really too chaotic." Yao Lao said with a smile, "But we need not bother about them temporarily. There is currently no need for us to get into too much conflict with them."

"Yes." Xiao Yan nodded slightly.

"Let's shake off those fellows behind us first. After that, we should go and inquire about the place where the Junior Sect Leader of the Blood Sect is staying. We can forget about the other things, but we must get our hands on that map piece." Yao Lao voiced his thoughts.

Xiao Yan nodded once again. That map piece gives the location of the

‘Purifying Lotus Demon Flame’. It was natural that Xiao Yan placed great effort on it. The corner of Xiao Yan’s eyes the street behind him where the human flow was very turbulent. His body suddenly flashed and squeezed into the street like a ghost.

Not long after Xiao Yan flashed into the small street, a few human figures also hurriedly squeezed out from the entrance of the small street. Their gazes swept over the street, but did not find any human figures. With a wave of a hand, the human figures hurriedly scattered, looking all over the place for the target which had disappeared.

“These dare to follow people?”

Xiao Yan easily shook off those following behind him and laughed with disdain in his heart. He changed his clothes and strolled on the street, spending some gold coins to obtain the information which he wanted. Due to Fan Ling’s identity, he did not hide his movement and openly lived at the most luxurious hotel within the ‘Black Mark City’. Therefore, it was not difficult to obtain information regarding where he stayed.

In order to observe all of Fan Ling’s action at all times, Xiao Yan gave up the inn which he had stayed at before, and found a hidden place to stay that was just outside of the place where Fan Ling was staying.

After the auction fair that day had ended, Fan Ling and the others did not immediately leave the ‘Black Mark City’. Instead, they rested for one night and swaggered out of the hotel in the afternoon the next day before whizzing out of the ‘Black Mark City’.

As Fan Ling and his group left ‘Black Mark City’, a shadow quietly followed behind. He was like a gangrene in the bone that one could not shake off no matter how hard one tried.

“Hei, I’m sorry, but no one can snatch away my things. I don’t care if you are a Junior Sect Leader...” The black shadow cut past the forest as his faint cold laughter slowly lingered.

Chapter 398: Ambush Killing

A black shadow suddenly flashed into some dense bushes within the thick forest. His gaze passed through the gaps between the branches and eyed a spot under a large tree, which was only a hundred meters away. Over ten human figures were temporarily resting near that spot.

Xiao Yan lifted his head and eyed the weather from within the dense forest. He hesitated for a moment, his breathing was so calm that there was not the slightest fluctuation. Although his target was in front of him, he was not in a hurry to strike. Besides, Fan Ling was a Dou Ling, while the two old men by his side also had strength which were around that of the Dou Ling class. Adding some other guards whose strength were quite strong, even Xiao Yan, with the help of Yao Lao, would have difficulty completely dealing with all of them within a short period of time. Therefore, he must search for the best opportunity to strike. Otherwise, it would likely be a little troublesome once he exposed himself. The strength of the Blood Sect could, after all, be considered quite strong even in the 'Black-Corner Region'.

Xiao Yan's gaze was focused intently on Fan Ling's group. The other party rested for nearly ten minutes before they finally stood up once again. Just as Xiao Yan thought that they would hurry forward continuing the route earlier, however, the group of people suddenly made a huge turn, and directly rushed toward the western side of 'Black Mark City'.

"Uh." Xiao Yan was startled as he saw Fan Ling's group suddenly change direction. His expression immediately changed slightly. Was he discovered? This thought flashed in his heart for a moment before it was automatically thrown out. The strongest person of Fan Ling's group was a Dou Ling, so it was impossible for them to discover his Qi. Moreover, even if they discovered him, something like changing their path would not happen. After all, someone whose strength on the surface was merely that of the Da Dou Shi class was not sufficient to cause them to be this afraid.

"What are these people planning?" A trace of doubt flashed across Xiao Yan's heart. His toes gently pressed down on the tree branch and his body

was like a bat in the night, gently gliding forward and landing on a huge tree. After which, he once again closely followed the group in front.

The two groups of people, with one in the front and one at the back, was merely a hundred meters apart as they hurried toward the western side of the 'Black Mark City'. After this rushing continued for twenty minutes, Yao Lao's deep voice suddenly sounded in Xiao Yan's heart, "Little fellow, be a little more careful. There are quite a number of strong presences hidden in the cove in front. Among them, there is one who is even quite a lot stronger than the Dou Huang's Qi at the auction house earlier. Moreover, the Qi is as dark and cold as ice. It is very similar to the Qi of Fan Ling."

The body, which was charging forward, suddenly paused at these sudden words of Yao Lao. Xiao Yan's expression changed drastically as he forcefully turned his body and hid himself behind a tree. In his heart, he said with shock, "Have we fallen into someone's trap?"

"It doesn't appear so." Yao Lao mused out loud, "From the looks of how they are hiding their presence, it appears that they are lying in wait. Do they need to spend so much effort to deal with you, who is a weak Da Dou Shi?"

"Ambush?" Xiao Yan's face turned grim before he sighed in relief. His brows were full of doubt as he said, "But for a strong Dou Huang to lead a large group of people to lay hidden and preparing for an ambush here... what are they trying to do?"

Xiao Yan's eyes flickered slightly. His gaze suddenly swept in the direction of the 'Black Mark City'. After being stunned for a moment, he appeared to have suddenly guessed something and could not help but say in aghast within his heart, "These fellows aren't really thinking of snatching the auctioned item, right?"

"Well, that is very possible. The Di Class Dou Technique or that 'Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill', either one of these things would have the qualification to cause the Blood Sect to spend a great amount of effort to steal. Something like blocking the path and robbing is quite frequent

within the 'Black-Corner Region'." Yao Lao was also startled when he heard this. However, he did not reject Xiao Yan's guess.

"Then what do we do? Fan Ling has already entered the ambushed area and seeing how it's still calm, the ambushers are obviously people of the blood sect. Since teacher has sensed someone strong than the leader of 'Eight Gates' in the cove, isn't it impossible to get that fragment of a map?" Xiao Yan knitted his brows as he said helplessly.

"Let's wait and see first. We will quietly watch and react accordingly." Yao Lao said in a deep voice.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. His gaze swept in all directions before he suppressed his breath to its limit. He quietly flashed toward a higher area within the forest so he could have a good view.

Xiao Yan's body was pressed flat in this clustered thicket. The terrain supporting him coincidentally allowed him to see all of the forest depressions below. His gaze was veiled as it swept across the forest, which was so quiet that it did not have the slightest murmur. If it were not for Yao Lao voicing a warning, it was likely that Xiao Yan would have followed Fan Ling and charged into the small forest and would not have discovered this hidden ambush.

The eastern side of this small forest cluster was a small path, which meandered all the way to the end. If one's gaze were to move along the western side and sweep over it, one would be able to faintly see the vague outline of the 'Black Mark City'. From the perspective of its terrain, this small forest appeared to be a road which one must pass on the western side of 'Black Mark City'. No wonder the people from the Blood Sect chose to set up their ambush here.

Xiao Yan's body was like a corpse, which lay prone quietly within the thicknet. His breathing was suppressed from its normal state to the point where he inhaled once every two to three minutes. After all, there was a strong person of the Dou Huang class in the small forest below. If it were not for Yao Lao quietly helping him, Xiao Yan's ability would be insufficient to hide under the other party's nose this smoothly.

After Fan Ling's group entered the small forest, this somewhat remote region descended into an extreme silence. Even those flying birds also rustled and shivered as they shrunk their bodies in their nests because they sensed some killing intent creeping out. They did not even dare to make the slightest noise.

The strangely quiet atmosphere shrouded this region and did not disappear for a long while.

Xiao Yan narrowed his eyes. His entire body was basically prone on the ground. At a certain instance, his finger, which was still in contact with the ground, shook slightly. His eyes suddenly opened as he lifted his head and turned his gaze toward the small path which led to the 'Black Mark City'. There was the faint, weak, sound of a horse neighing coming from that direction.

"Are they about to arrive?" Xiao Yan muttered softly in his heart. His eyes had also gradually become much sharper. On the path in the distance, a group of human figures riding fast horses were rushing toward the other direction of the path as though they were chasing after the stars and moon. Yellow dust shot up to the sky along the way.

"Creak." Following the increasingly loud noise of horse hooves, some soft sounds of bowstrings being drawn resounded within the small forest.

At the edge of one's sight, the human figures riding their horses as they came forward gradually appeared. After seeing that the one leading was a woman wearing a green-colored dress, the heart of Xiao Yan, who was hiding in the thicket, could not resist leaping. He quietly spoke in his heart, "The people from the Blood Sect are indeed planning to go after the 'Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill'. However, aren't they afraid that the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' will seek revenge? Since the latter has the ability to contend for this treasure, it is likely that the strength of the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' is not considered weak on this continent, no?"

"Ah, it's still passable." Yao Lao said faintly, "I think that the Dou Huang presence in the forest below should be the Sect Leader of the Blood Sect. Since even he has taken action, they naturally do not plan to allow the

people from the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' to leave. As long as none of them return alive, the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' can only jump in fury. After all, something like killing people midway in their travels happens almost everyday in the 'Black-Corner Region'."

"Not letting anyone leave? They are quite ruthless." Xiao Yan parted his mouth when he heard this. However, he was not too surprised. If word of this kind of thing was to spread, the two factions would have to fight to the death. Moreover, this involved a treasure like the 'Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill'. It was only natural that there would not be any room to negotiate. After all, the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' would definitely not let it just come to nothing after spending so much.

Over ten human figures instantly swept past the small path. A moment later, the quiet small forest appeared in their sight.

The one leading the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' was naturally that beautiful Elder Qing, whom Xiao Yan had seen on the auction grounds. After rushing quickly to this point, she lifted her head and eyed the forest in the distance. Her eyebrows were slightly knit together. Since she was able to become an Elder of the 'Sky Serpent Mansion', her strength and experience was naturally not what an ordinary person could compare with. She also knew the reason behind being cautious before entering every forest. Moreover, she was now carrying a valuable unique treasure like the 'Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill' with her. She must definitely be even more cautious on top of being careful.

Elder Qing raised her hand and displayed a signal. Their rushing speed gradually slowed. She waved her delicate hand, and the space in front of her fluctuated slightly. Immediately, a small, emerald-colored, energy snake appeared by her side, and landed in the underbrush. It swarmed into the forest with extremely great speed,

The small energy snake quietly slithered into the forest. Its emerald snake eyes were about to take a look around, when a rushing wind suddenly sounded. A sharp arrow was immediately and violently inserted into the snake's head. The former struggled for a while before it turned into energy and gradually turned into nothingness.

At the moment the small energy snake was killed, the expression of Elder Qing, who had already reached a spot not far from the forest, changed abruptly. She let out a stern cry, "Be careful! It's an ambush!"

"Ha ha, you are indeed worthy of being an Elder of the 'Sky Serpent Mansion'. Your tactic of agglomerating Dou Qi into a snake was really superb." The cry of Elder Qing had just sounded when a loud owl-like laughter was emitted from the forest at the same time. A powerful Qi suddenly rose up into the sky. A blood-red shadow shot out from the forest and steadily landed on top of a large tree. His pair of eyes, which contained a red glint and a dense dark coldness which was difficult to hide, swept toward Elder Qing's group outside the forest.

"Fan Lao?"

Seeing the tall, large man who was wearing a big red robe with a color similar to fresh blood, the expression of Elder Qing changed greatly. She immediately cried out with a stern exterior, but a wavering interior, "What do you mean by this? Don't tell me that you want to declare war on our 'Sky Serpent Mansion'?"

"Ha ha, I am not thinking of declaring war. However, I am interested in the 'Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill' in Elder Qing's hand!" The red-robed man smiled. However, this smile had a denseness seeping out from it that was not possible to cover.

"Pull back! Everyone leave this place by themselves. As long as one of us manage to flee, immediately report this matter to the Mansion Head!" Hearing the other party mentioning the 'Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill', the heart of Elder Qing suddenly fell. She knew that there was no room for discussion regarding this matter. Immediately, she did not hesitate as she let out a stern cry. Her feet immediately stepped on the back of the horse as her body was the first to turn into a shadow, which flashed toward the interior of the thicket on the side of the main road.

"Xiu, xiu, xiu"

The moment the people from the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' scattered and withdrew, a large wave of rushing wind suddenly sounded from within the

forest. Countless arrows containing a cold glow and ferocious force were shot out from all directions. Under the rain of these arrows without any gaps between them, even Elder Qing could not help but slow down her speed. Her body flashed as she dodged the arrows.

The people from the 'Sky Serpent Mansion', who had scattered and shot out in all directions, were actually once again forced to shrink together. At this moment, nearly a hundred Blood Sect warriors, wearing red robes and carrying blood knives in their hands, came swarming out from the dark, black forest on the four sides of the path.

The faces of these Blood Sect warriors were wood-like, much like puppets. However, their eyes were filled with the same dense darkness and cruelty as Fan Ling.

"Elder Qing, hand over the 'Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill' and I will allow you to live! Otherwise, die!"

The body of the black robed man on the top of the tree flashed like a ghost and instantly appeared in the sky of the encirclement. His thick dark cry, reverberated in the air above the path.

Chapter 399: The Fierce Fighting on the Road

“Kill!”

That Elder Qing from the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ did not hesitate at all in the face of the dense, dark cry of Fan Lao. Her expression was dark and solemn as she let out a stern cry. Powerful Dou Qi surged from within her body, and her strong aura directly shook the leaves and plants on the ground around her until they shot backward. From this force of hers, her strength should have already advanced to the Dou Wang level.

Under this cry of hers, the twenty plus strong people from the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ around her also let out a “chang” sound as they grabbed their weapons and allow their Dou Qi to surge out. Threads of different snake shaped Dou Qi cycled around their bodies before flowing away, finally and abruptly erupting with terrifying force, which charged toward those red-robed warriors around them.

Two torrents, one green and one red, violently collided, meeting in the middle of the main road. A wave of energy ripples began to shoot out like a wave.

When the cruel and numb faced Blood Sect warriors violently hacked their knives downward, they were surrounded by a bloody aura. They did not emit the slightest sound. The strong people from the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ also had dark, solemn faces as they circulated the Dou Qi in their bodies to the limit. Their weapons, which were covered by Dou Qi, carried the ‘si si’ sounds in the air being cut as they trickily and viciously targeted the vitals of the Blood Sect warriors.

The strong people from both sides were not mediocre people. Not only were their strengths powerful, but it was also clear that they were well trained. Although there were no loud noises, a bloody fight to the death was buried deep within the slaughter. Frequently, there would be the muffled sounds of sharp weapons piercing into flesh. Fresh blood would immediately scatter.

Elder Qing's expression was ice cold. She held a snake-shaped longsword. Each time the curved arc of the sword rotated bizarrely, it would slip past the neck of a Blood Sect warrior. After which, it would carry a blood scar as fresh blood which came gushing out. During the time the fresh blood drifted, she would move in a flash, much like a Sand Mandala Snake which was agile and vicious.

Corpses gradually piled up on the side of the road. Most among them were people from the Blood Sect. Although, there were also some from the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' among them. However, no matter how Elder Qing led the people to make a killing charge forward, there would be an unceasing number of Blood Sect warriors charging out from within the forest, breaking her intention of fleeing into the forest.

Elder Qing's eyes were cold as she penetrated the chest of a Blood Sect's warrior with a stab of her sword. Her gaze swiftly swept across her surroundings and her heart sank as she discovered that the nearly twenty 'Sky Serpent Mansion' elites that had been by her side at the beginning had been reduced to a mere eight people.

The snake sword in her hand stabbed out explosively behind her and pierced through the throat of a Blood Sect warrior, who had planned to launch a sneak attack. Her shoulders shook slightly and a pair of wings agglomerated from green-colored Dou Qi that swiftly surfaced. Her feet gently pushed off the ground as her old body suddenly rose into the sky. However, she was just about to turn around and flee, a shadow suddenly shot past barreling through the sky. A cold, dark majestic force immediately came pressing down violently from the sky. Due to the force being too strong, it actually caused the sound barrier to be broken, releasing an explosive sound along the way.

Sensing the majestic force that was transmitted from above her head, the expression of Elder Qing changed slightly. She raised both her hands, and a green glow shone brightly from the top downward, wrapping her entire body within it.

"Bang!"

The majestic force fell and violently smashed into the green-colored light cover that Elder Qing had just created. The latter trembled intensely and finally could not withstand the attack a moment later. Following a slight sound, the light cover shattered in the air. Elder Qing within it also emitted a muffled groan and her expression was much paler as she fell.

“Ha ha, Elder Qing, I have already said, no one should be thinking of leaving this place today!” A red shadow flashed in the sky. The pair of fresh blood-like Dou Qi wings on Fan Lao’s back were extremely eye-piercing. As they flapped, one could even faintly smell a bloody scent drifting in the wind.

Fan Lao’s gave a thick laugh. He did not give Elder Qing an opportunity to catch her breath. With a flap of the blood wings on his back, his body suddenly shot downward, much like a blood sucking bat which had locked onto its prey.

Seeing Fan Lao pouncing over, that pale faced Elder Qing could only violently grit her teeth as she drew her sword to meet him. As the Dou Qi in her body was circulating at maximum speed, an incomparably ferocious Dou Qi directly caused the surrounding air to emit a slight undulation. From the looks of it, this Elder Qing had already unleashed her strength to the maximum in order to escape from the hands of the Dou Huang class Fan Lao alive.

Seeing the brutal battle to the death on the path below and then carefully watching the fight in the sky, which was basically one sided, Xiao Yan, who was hiding in the thicknet, could not resist shaking his head. He muttered, “Looks like the people from the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ don’t have the any chance of escaping alive today.”

“Ah, the Blood Sect must have spent quite a lot of effort in order to place a large force in ambush here without alerting any other factions. No matter how alert the people from the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ are, they will likely have difficulty escaping today.” Yao Lao nodded his head and said.

“That Fan Ling is also below. However, there are always two strong Dou Lings protecting him. It is quite troublesome.” Xiao Yan’s gaze swept

across the battlefield below. At that spot, Fan Ling was holding a blood knife as he hacked a strong person from the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' into two, while wearing a vicious smile. Regardless of what happened, the two old men beside him were no more than a meter away from him.

"Do not rush to strike against that Fan Ling. Otherwise, if Fan Lao were to sense it, things would become a little troublesome. Due to that damn 'Hall of Souls', I can no longer lend you my spiritual strength fearlessly like I have in the past. Therefore, you must act cautiously when you meet these strong people in the future." Yao Lao's deep voice warned.

Xiao Yan nodded slightly. He gently inhaled a breath of air and suppressed the anxiety within his heart and quietly observed the development occurring below.

There may be many people from the Blood Sect, but the group from the 'Sky Serpent Mansion' was clearly stronger than those of the former. Therefore, by relying on tacit mutual cooperation this seemingly shaky group could ultimately endure and not be destroyed despite their bodies being full of injuries. Those who could follow Elder Qing to come to the chaotic region called 'Black-Corner Region' did indeed have some skill.

Although the ground was firmly holding out, the Dou Wang class strength of Elder Qing's in the sky was no match for Fan Lao, who was a strong Dou Huang. The latter's movement was swift and ghost like. After merely exchanging over ten blows, the expression of the pale-faced Elder Qing grew even more pale.

"Bang!"

Elder Qing was once again forced to receive the palm of Fan Lao in midair. The strong force which surged out from the point of contact between their palms directly caused Elder Qing to spit out a mouthful of fresh blood. Her body was swiftly forced back while Fan Lao closely gave chase without giving up in a manner similar to wanting to take a life from one who was sick.

Elder Qing suddenly lifted her head as she hurriedly pulled back. Her originally pretty face was at this moment filled with a savageness. She

swayed her hand and a cold jade box appeared in her palm. With a sharp, stern cry, she said, “Old demon Fan, if you dare to come over, the old me will let this ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’ turn into powder on the spot.”

“Duo!” The figure which was pouncing over from the front suddenly stopped. Fan Lao darkly eyed Elder Qing and slowly said, “If you dare to destroy the ‘Yin-Yang Mysterious Dragon Pill’, I will cripple your Dou Qi, and then lock you up in the Blood Sect and rear you like a pig or a dog, made specially to wait on the men of our Blood Sect.

The words spat out by the calm tone were so vicious, that they caused people’s entire body to feel a chill.

As she thought of this fate where death was better than living, Elder Qing’s expression could not help but change even with her mental strength. The hand, which held the cold jade box, could not resist trembling slightly.

Just as Elder Qing was shocked by the vicious words of Fan Lao until she became a little absent-minded, Fan Lao’s body shook suddenly and actually disappeared into nothingness.

Elder Qing sensed something the moment Fan Lao’s body disappeared. Her expression changed abruptly, but before she had the time to pull back, a vague red shadow appeared in front of her. A blood red hand shot out explosively and violently cut at Elder Qing’s arm. The sound of a bone breaking could immediately be heard.

“Ah!”

The intense pain transmitted from her hand directly caused Elder Qing to involuntarily let out a shrill cry. She did not have the time to keep the cold jade box before it was snatched away by Fan Lao in a lightning like manner. The latter smiled and hurriedly retreated.

As he pulled back, Fan Lao swiftly opened the cold jade box. A golden light was shot out immediately. The wild joy and pride on his face grew even more dense as he swiftly closed the box and threw it toward Fan Ling below. He shouted, “Ling-er. Take it and withdraw first. Blood Guards of

the Blood Sect, protect the Junior Sect Leader until he reaches Mu Zhi City! I will block everyone here!”

Fan Ling hurriedly leaped up and grabbed the cold jade box with his hands when he heard the command. He swiftly squeezed it into his storage ring and no longer hesitated. With a wave of his hand, over ten Blood Guards left the battleground. The group of people, with Fan Ling as the leader, changed direction and swiftly hurried toward the south.

“Ah! Bastard Fan. I will not let you have an easy time even if I have to stake my own life today!” Elder Qing’s face turned green when the most important thing was snatched right out of her hands. She lifted her head and emitted a shrill. A frightening Dou Qi, that was two to three times stronger than before, came erupting from her body in all directions. As the Dou Qi surged wildly, some fresh blood actually began to overflow from under Elder Qing’s skin.

Elder Qing’s eyes were vicious as she stared at Fan Lao, who was frowning slightly. She held the snake sword tightly and flapped the wings on her back. Her body turned into a ray of light, carrying a sharp, explosive sound that spread all over the sky as she struck wildly at Fan Lao.

“A counter-attack just before death, huh? Hei, no matter how you struggle, you will never be a match for me.” Fan Lao’s laughed when he saw that Elder Qing’s strength had abruptly soared. He curled his hand slightly and a long knife, which appeared to be coagulated from fresh blood, surfaced on his palm. He held the long knife in his hand as the knife trembled slightly. A bloody aura immediately began to spread.

Fan Lao held the blood knife tightly and did not show any sign of shrinking away or pulling back. He chose the method of fighting head on as he turned into a blood colored shadow, which carried a bloody scent that spread throughout the sky as he violently collided with Elder Qing.

An explosion immediately resounded throughout the horizon.

After Fan Ling obtained the jade box and withdrew, Xiao Yan had also quietly snuck out of the thicket. He was like an agile monkey as he passed through the forest and closely tailed Fan Ling’s group. His footsteps

paused a little when he heard the loud sound that reverberated throughout the sky. His eyes turned to look at the sky behind him. His gaze landed where two glows, one green and one red, had each occupied half of the sky.

“Hopefully not all the people of the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’ die.”

Xiao Yan sighed gently and no longer paused. He turned around and once again locked onto his target, a large red shadow at the edge of his sight. He did not have any deep relation with the ‘Sky Serpent Mansion’. Naturally, it was not possible for him to rescue them. In this ‘Black-Corner Region’, forget about the so called ‘acting out at the sight of injustice’. Even if you shouted and walked forward as though nothing had happened after shouting, that would also similarly attract a countless number of knives hacking at you.

Moreover, Xiao Yan currently had difficulty protecting himself. If he were to go and stick his nose into other people’s business, it would clearly be an extremely foolish thing. Therefore, he could only mutter a little quietly in his heart.

The only aim he had now was to use any means to snatch back the map fragment from Fan Ling.

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